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THE  
FAMILY ALTAR,

OR A  
GUIDE TO DEVOTION.

BY  
VARIOUS MINISTERS.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,  
The Christian's native air;  
His watchword at the gate of death;  
He enters Heaven by Prayer.

MONTGOMERY.

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## P R E F A C E.

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ALTHOUGH many Guides to Devotion and Manuals of Family Worship have been already offered to the Public, the want has been felt and often expressed by pious heads of families and others, for a Compilation of Prayers better adapted for expressing the emotions, the desires and the necessities of the Christian, simpler and more natural in diction, and more diversified in their character so as to be appropriate for every variety of circumstance and occasion.

Whether the Publishers have succeeded in meeting this want by issuing the present Manual, they must leave the Public to decide. One or two statements respecting the Contents of the Volume will shew that this object has, at least, been kept steadily in view.

Instead of making selections from Prayers already before the Public, in order to secure

greater variety and appropriateness, they have employed as Contributors various Ministers, whose Christian experience, whose acquaintance with the actual character and circumstances of Christians and Christian families, and whose ability to express in simple language the thoughts and feelings of the heart, fitted them for composing Prayers suitable, at once as to their subject-matter and mode of expression for the family altar or private devotion.

Great care has been taken to adapt the Prayers to the varying circumstances of families, while, it is hoped, the ordinary Morning and Evening Family Prayers will be found natural, fervent and appropriate.

The Incidental Prayers are intended to be appended to the daily Family Prayers, on the occasions indicated by their titles.

It is not to be supposed that in Christian families there will only be the stated morning and evening approach to the family altar ; there are peculiar occasions when *special* family devotions are most suitable and profitable. For



these occasions, the Miscellaneous and Communion Prayers were expressly prepared.

In addition to the Family Prayers, or those adapted for the family altar, there are also Individual Prayers adapted for the Closet, for special states of soul, and for Communion occasions. These Individual Prayers are not intended to supersede the spontaneous expression of the soul's desires to God in the Closet; but to aid especially the young Christian, by suggesting suitable thoughts and petitions. And even the Christian who has had some experience in the divine life, may often derive benefit in moments of apathy or mental darkness, from these expressions of the thoughts and desires of the soul seeking after God.

At the end of the Volume will be found a few short Prayers, intended to be used at the commencement of worship, as a preparative for reading the Scriptures attentively and profitably, and for praying with sincerity and earnestness.

No selections have been made of portions of Scripture, to be read morning and evening. This

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would only have been a needless attempt to do what every Christian head of a family can and ought to do for himself, and what he alone is competent to do properly. That the Scriptures ought to be read regularly and carefully, none will deny; but what portions, and in what order, each individual must decide for himself, according to his own judgment and his peculiar circumstances.

To warn any against the formal use of these Prayers, without cultivating the spirit of prayer, —against using them as a substitute for prayer, instead of a guide to devotion,—is here unnecessary. But it cannot be too much impressed on the Christian's mind, that "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." With or without a form of Prayer, it is possible to worship God with the lips, while the heart may be far from him; but if the words of the mouth express the feelings and desires of the soul, it is a matter of no moment whether these words be a pre-arranged form, or the spontaneous utterance of the suppliant; in either case they will be alike acceptable in God's sight. It is true that the more one is accustomed to draw near to God in prayer, the less need will

he have for any assistance in expressing his wants and longings, and in the case of many, such aids as the Family Altar may eventually be dispensed with. Still, however, there are many true and devoted Christians who shrink from guiding the devotions of others ;—Christian mothers especially, when their husbands are absent, or prevented by necessary engagements from regularly attending to family worship, often feel the need of such a Manual as the present.

To such individuals the Family Altar is specially commended. It is far better that *a form of Prayer* should be used, than that a family should never assemble around God's altar, nor unite in offering up their incense of prayer and praise. To those who cannot conduct devotional exercises statedly, with sufficient propriety and variety of petitions and expressions, this Manual may also prove very serviceable, as suggesting what ought to be the matter and manner of family prayers, and how variety may be secured.

The Publishers issue the present Volume in the fervent hope that it may, under the Divine blessing, answer the ends they have sought in publish-

ing it ; and with the earnest desire that He, who is the hearer and answerer of Prayer, may bless their feeble endeavours. And should this Manual be the means of instituting the worship of God in one Family where it has hitherto been neglected, they will feel that their labour has not altogether been lost.

EDINBURGH, *January*, 1850.

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**THE**  
**FAMILY ALTAR.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER.

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Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And for-  
give us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver  
us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.

# FAMILY PRAYERS.

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## First Week.

### SABBATH MORNING.

O GOD who fillest the universe with thy presence, who hast created and upholdest all things by the word of thy power, unto thee do we lift our souls.

We feel, O Lord, and we acknowledge, that it is to thee that we are indebted for life, and for every blessing that we enjoy. Thou art our Creator and continual preserver. We are in thy hand as the clay is in the hand of the potter. Thou canst do with all things as seemeth to thee good, and none can say unto thee, what doest thou?

We adore thee, that thou hast assigned us such a distinguished rank among thy creatures; that when thou hadst formed the earth, and all that it contains, thou didst make man in thine own image, and that thou didst breathe into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living soul. We bless thee, that, from the beginning, thou didst make known unto us thy nature and perfections, and didst give us powers and faculties which have rendered us capable of knowing, of loving, and of serving thee; that thou didst at our original creation write thy law upon our hearts, and didst fit and incline us to act agreeably to thy will. But, O most gracious and merciful Father, we would with the most peculiar, and with the most un-

feigned gratitude, adore and magnify, and bless thy holy name, that when we had, with the most daring presumption, rebelled against thee, our Creator and most bountiful benefactor, thou still didst bear with us; that thou didst withhold the punishment which thou hadst threatened; nay, that thou didst even pity us, and didst, in thine unbounded love, devise a scheme by which our sins might be pardoned, thy justice satisfied, and our souls saved. We bless thee, that thou didst graciously promise to raise up a mighty Deliverer, who should, in our room and stead, magnify thy law and make it honourable—who should offer a sacrifice of sufficient value to make atonement for sin—who should act as a mediator betwixt thee and us,—and who should be able and willing to save to the uttermost all who come unto thee through him.

We adore thee, O most gracious Father, that thou didst by a long series of promises, types, and prophecies, keep alive the expectations, and animate the hopes of thy people, giving them ground to believe, and to look for Him who was the desire of all nations. And we bless thee, that, when the fulness of the time was come, Jesus Christ, thy only begotten and well-beloved Son, really did appear in our nature, invested with the character of the promised Messiah, and did, by a life of unspotted holiness, render perfect obedience to thy law, and, by offering himself a sacrifice upon the cross, made a full expiation for sin. O the height and the depth, the breadth and the length of the love of God, it passeth knowledge!

With grateful hearts, O Lord, would we praise thee, that the tidings of this salvation have reached our ears; that we have heard of all thy gracious designs concerning us,—that we are assured, that

thou art now in Christ reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses,—that we are assured, that that sacrifice, which Christ made for us, has been accepted ; that we now live under a new and a better covenant, which can never be dissolved, seeing all its stipulations have, by our surety, been fulfilled. We bless thee, that we can now look unto thee, not as an offended God, but as a reconciled Father ; and that thou art now holding out to us the offer of eternal life, as a free gift, which has been procured for us by the obedience and suffering of our Redeemer.

We fervently pray, O most merciful God, that thou wouldst, by thy Holy Spirit, apply unto us the benefits of Christ's redemption, and that thou wouldst dispose and incline us to come unto thee through him.

O let none of us presume upon thy mercy, while we continue in the practice of sin, with the weapons of rebellion in our hands. O make us to see, that in thy mercy is our only refuge ; and do thou enable us, with sincere contrition of heart, to confess and to forsake our sins ; and with full purpose of heart to endeavour to walk as thou, in thy word, hast commanded us. Give us that faith, without which it is impossible to please thee,—which receives, and rests upon Christ alone for salvation,—which leads us to trust in his righteousness for justification,—and a right to eternal life—which leads us to consider ourselves as not our own, but as bought with a price, even with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot ; and as therefore bound no longer to live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and who rose again.

Believing in Christ, may the same mind be in

us which was also in him, that we may be holy as he is holy, and pure as he is pure. May our faith work by love, purify the heart, and overcome the world. Though temptation still cleave to us, may we be ever aiming at greater and greater degrees of holiness, still pressing forward from one degree of grace unto another, till at last we arrive at the fulness of the stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus.

Living under the sanctifying influences of thy Spirit, may we be filled with joy and peace in believing, and abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

We give thee praise, O most gracious God, that thou hast appointed certain ordinances in thy Church, by means of which the benefits of Christ's redemption are communicated to us.

With grateful hearts we desire, O Lord, to praise thee, that thou hast permitted us to see the return of another Sabbath. May we esteem the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord and honourable. Help us to keep thy Sabbath from polluting it; and enable us conscientiously to spend it in the public and private exercises of devotion. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. May we not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but may we love the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

We pray, O Lord, that thou wouldst prepare thy ministering servants, throughout the Church this day, for the important duties which they have to discharge. May they be as scribes who are well instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, and bring forth, out of their treasures, things new and

old. Enable them to direct the attention of their hearers to the great mystery of godliness, that many hearts may be drawn unto Christ. The righteousness, which is by faith in Jesus Christ, is brought near to us in the ministration of the word ; we pray that it may be brought home to our very hearts by the application of thy Holy Spirit.

Let the light of thy gospel shine unto all nations, and may as many as have already heard and received it live as becomes it.

Have compassion upon those who devote this day to forbidden pleasure. May they be brought home to thy fold, and be made to rejoice in that message of mercy which they now despise.

Be with all who are in affliction. May they experience that thou art not confined to temples made with hands, but that thou art ever present with those who seek thy face, and put their humble trust in thee.

Do thou take up thy abode in this house. Dwell in each of our hearts richly by faith. May we be thine, not merely by outward profession, but by regenerating grace.

Hear, O Lord, these our humble prayers, and accept of us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SABBATH EVENING.

O THOU Almighty and Eternal God, thou art infinitely holy ; thou dwellest in the highest heavens, and art, at the same time, essentially present throughout all thy works. We come to thee as the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in him the God of all comfort, and the source of all blessedness. Thy name is holy, thy com-

mands are holy, thy word and thy Sabbaths are holy, and without holiness, none can worship thee acceptably here, or enjoy thy glorious presence in the heavenly world. Give us, by thy divine illumination, such a view of thy holiness as shall lay us low in the dust of humility and self-abasement; such a view of thy justice, as shall convince us of our guilt, and utter unworthiness, and danger, by reason of our multiplied transgressions against thy law; and such a view of thy rich mercy in Jesus Christ, as shall lift up our hearts with hope, with confidence, and joy. May holy desires be produced, holy affections wrought, and holy dispositions implanted in our hearts by the operations of thy sanctifying Spirit; and may the amiable fruits of pure and undefiled religion appear abundantly in our whole life and conversation.

We bless thee, O Lord, for all the opportunities which we enjoy of making ourselves acquainted with all the sublime truths of the gospel of Christ. Incline our hearts to read and hear thy word with unwearied attention, and to meditate on thy law day and night. Endear to our hearts the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which is of more value than hidden treasures. May all our desires, all our designs, and all our undertakings be guided by its holy influence.

With grateful hearts, O Lord, we praise thee for the opportunity which we have this day enjoyed of being permitted to enter thy house, to celebrate thy praise, to hold communion with thee in prayer, to hear the word of salvation proclaimed in our ears, and thy blessed Spirit striving in our hearts. O do thou, through the influences of thy grace, give to ministers and hearers a better understanding of, and a firmer faith in the doctrines



of Christ crucified. We adore that infinite mercy of thine, by which thou didst make him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him ; and that we might be saved by his merits, when we could not be saved by our own deserts.

O see, Lord, our sins punished in him, even in him who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities : and as the chastisement of our peace was upon him, so let the merits of his righteousness be upon us ; and by his stripes let all the diseases of our souls be healed.

O let us not be shaken in our faith of the gospel, and in our trust in the Redeemer, by that contempt which so many, in our day, are ever ready to pour upon the ordinances of the religion of Christ. But may we indeed feel it to be the power of God and the wisdom of God ; and may we remember, that, by the foolishness of preaching, men, in all ages of the Christian Church, have been brought into the way of salvation, have been taught savingly and to profit, and have been trained to a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. May we esteem all other knowledge comparatively foolish, till we have learned that our wisdom and righteousness, our sanctification and redemption, are in Christ, who, of God, is made all and in all to us.

O bestow upon us, we beseech thee, the unsearchable riches of Christ, and adopt us into thy blessed family, the whole of which, whether in heaven or on earth, is named from thy first-born and well-beloved Son. Fill us, heavenly Father, with thy divine fulness, and grant us to know, by blessed experience, the breadth and length, the height and depth of the love of our Saviour, Jesus

Christ; and out of the fulness which thou hast treasured up in Him, give us grace to enjoy thy favour in our hearts, and to obey thy will in our lives.

And O Lord, it is our heart's desire, that we may be enabled to walk more acceptably before thee in all righteousness and holiness, which thy word enjoins on us. O suffer us not to be tempted above what thou givest us strength to bear. Make our temptations less, or thy grace in us more sufficient to resist them, that no iniquities may prevail against us, nor any presumptuous sin have dominion over us.

Make us more conformable to the pattern and to the precepts of our blessed Saviour. Transform us more and more unto his holy image and likeness, that we may enjoy more full communion with thee—that we may not dishonour his religion, nor cause the way of truth to be evil spoken of; and may we make our light to shine before men, to the glory of thee, our heavenly Father, and to the edification of those among whom we dwell.

Bless, O God, the means that are employed for making known thy salvation to the ends of the earth. May the kingdoms of this world soon become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ.

Look down, O gracious Father, on all the sons and daughters of affliction; mercifully regard them under the pressure of their troubles; and exercise thy pity and compassion towards them. O sanctify thy Fatherly correction to them. Support them under their several burdens, and in thy good time deliver them from the furnace into which they are cast. Prepare the dying for their last and great change. Comfort those who mourn the loss of departed relatives. May they

possess that resignation which calmly acquiesces in all the appointments of Divine Providence.

Be gracious to all our friends. Reward our benefactors. Bless also our enemies, and reconcile them both unto thyself and us.

To thy gracious protection we commit ourselves, and all our interests, during the silent watches of the night. May no evil come nigh our persons or our dwelling. And grant that we may arise in the morning with renewed vigour, to engage in the services which every returning day requires of us.

Incline thine ear to our requests, O Lord, and accept of us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and Almighty Lord God ! Thou alone art he whose name is Jehovah, the most high over all the earth. Thou livest and reignest for ever and ever. Thou reignest—let the earth rejoice—let the multitudes of the isles be glad ; for though clouds and darkness are round about thee, righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne ; mercy and truth go continually before thy face. Thou, O Lord, art slow to anger, and great in power. Thou hast thy way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of thy feet. Thou rebukest the sea, and makest it dry, and driest up all the rivers. The mountains quake before thee, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at thy presence. Who can stand before thine indignation ? And who can abide the fierceness of thine anger ? Thy fury, O

Lord, is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by thee ! Thou, O Lord, art also good, a stronghold in the day of trouble ; and thou knowest them that put their trust in thee. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee. O Lord, according to thy righteousness, we beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from us. O our God, incline thine ear, and hear ; for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

Give us grace to be deeply humbled before thee on account of our sins. What a load of sin and guilt we have contracted ! We confess our lives are stained with innumerable and aggravated transgressions. O Lord, our hearts would fail us, and sink into utter despair of thy mercy, were it not for those gracious discoveries which thou hast made in thy Son, Jesus Christ, to encourage the greatest sinners to repent, and turn unto thee.

O Lord, we confess that there is nothing we desire so much as to be delivered from the power of our sins, and to be restored to thy favour ; for we have no rest so long as we are impressed with the belief, that we are under thy displeasure. And though we are fully persuaded, that it is our happiness and privilege, as well as our duty, to love and serve thee, yet, alas ! we are apt to forget thee, and to grow cold and remiss in the great and important work which thou hast given us to do. How greatly, O God, have we offended thee by indifference to our true interests, by our carnality, pride, and envy—by murmuring and repining at the dispensations of thy providence,

and by an unwillingness to resign ourselves to thy disposal in all things. But do not thou, O God, compassionate lover of souls, turn thy face from us, nor cast us away in thy displeasure. Do thou look upon us in mercy, and let the infinite merits of our blessed Redeemer supply all our wants ; and, for his sake, be thou reconciled unto us, and admit us into thy favour, without which, we are, of all creatures, the most miserable. We know thy grace is sufficient for us ; and therefore in thee do we put our trust. Thou art our hope and our confidence, our Saviour and our mighty Deliverer ; O never leave us to ourselves, nor to the weakness of our corrupt nature ; but let thy Holy Spirit be always present with us, to defend us in all our conflicts ; to support us under our many weaknesses and infirmities ; to instruct us in all trying circumstances ; and to conduct us into those paths that lead to everlasting life. And grant, O most merciful Father, that we may never grieve thy Holy Spirit, nor fall into those sins and impurities, which will cause Him to leave us and forsake us, and to abandon us to our own foolish and perverse will ; but give us grace, to follow His guidance and direction, and to devote ourselves entirely to a life of godliness, that so our souls may be saved. Establish us in thy love ; strengthen us to perform thy will ; and settle our faith on Christ, the Rock of ages.

Let us not abandon our hope of ascending to heaven, where Christ our Saviour is set down at thy right hand, by burying our heart and affections in gross and sensual enjoyments. Though our bodies be on earth, may our hearts be in heaven. Give us faith in exercise, and we shall be powerful and prevail. Help us to come

to thee, for the blessing, in the garments of Christ, our elder brother.

We pray, O Lord, that where darkness and delusion prevail, and every evil work abounds, grace may much more abound, through the preaching of the glorious gospel of reconciliation and peace. Influence our cold hearts, thou God of love ! and awaken us to a deeper concern for the souls of men. Call forth, by thy Spirit, the energies of a divine benevolence, and let its workings be guided by thy redeeming grace.

Accept, O Lord, of our grateful thanksgivings, for the privileges and blessings which we on thy own day enjoyed, and for thy continued and paternal goodness to us ; for our refreshing repose during the silence and darkness of the past night ; for the light of this day ; for the health we enjoy ; and, above all, for thy chief mercy to sinners, Christ Jesus the Lord, who died for our offences, and rose again for our justification, and who is now exalted at thy right hand in the highest heavens, as our Advocate and Intercessor. To thee, O Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we ascribe through him, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD GOD of hosts, we adore thee as the blessed and only potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Thou only hast immortality, dwelling in light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, or can see, and live.

Enable us, at this time, O Lord, to worship

thee, as thou hast commanded, in spirit and in truth; and grant that our services may find acceptance before thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. May they come up before thee, perfumed with the much incense of a Saviour's intercession.

We would ever bless thy holy name, for the amazing grace which thou hast manifested towards our race, in providing a covenant of mercy, by which the salvation of miserable sinners is reconciled with the glory of thy great name. We adore thee, O our God, that this covenant, which is ordered in all things and sure, has been made known to us, and that we are invited to receive its blessings. We thank thee, that thou hast inclined our hearts to accept the invitation, and that we have been made the partakers of its blessings. Thou, O Lord, hast not only forgiven us all our sins, but dealest with us, for Christ's sake, as if we had never sinned. O infinite grace, and boundless love, to which we are eternal debtors!

We bless thee for thy protecting care and love manifested to us this day. We rejoice that we are thy children, and that thou art our Father who art in heaven; that we are thy creatures, and that thou art our Creator. Thou givest unto all thy dependent creatures their portion of food in due season, and upholdest them all. What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits to us?

O Lord, our God, we earnestly beseech thee to elevate our hope, and to strengthen our faith, that we may be able to quench the fiery darts, and resist the temptations of Satan, who goeth about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Enable us to be upright in heart and holy in conduct, denying ourselves, taking up the cross and

following our Saviour, through good and through bad report. May thy Holy Spirit make us more spiritually minded, and more deeply sensible of our obligations, not to live unto ourselves, but to Him that died for us, and who rose again. Thou, O Lord, knowest the state of each of our hearts before thee; bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Purify our affections and wean them from the objects of time and sense. Sanctify our souls through the renewing influences of thy grace. May we be fed with heavenly knowledge; and, as new-born babes, may we desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby. May we ever hunger after the bread of life. O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

Have mercy, O Lord God, on a world lying in wickedness. May sinners be aroused and awakened, to a sense of their danger, before it be too late. Do thou bless whatever has for its object and end the conversion of souls, and thy glory; all missionary operations—Sabbath-school teaching, and tract-distributing societies, do thou abundantly bless. Sympathise with the poor and needy. Put it into the heart of the rich to assist them; and may those whom thou hast so prospered in temporal things, as to be able to aid their poorer brethren, remember that he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord; and that when thou comest, thou wilt repay the same with usury. Be with those, Almighty Father, who are suffering from poverty and disease. Do thou rebuke their sickness, if it be thy will; and lead the steps of the charitable and benevolent towards their dwellings. If any such are strangers to pardoning mercy, and



ignorant of the way of salvation, do thou, O Lord, lead them to thyself, and blot out all their sins, for the sake of him, who has invited the weary and heavy laden to come to him, that they may obtain rest.

Bless our friends and connexions with the spiritual and temporal blessings which we crave for ourselves. We now commit them and us, and all that concerns us, for time and for eternity, into thy hands.

Hear us, O Lord, in heaven thy dwelling-place, and, when thou hearest, do thou answer, and forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, our God, thou art very great. Thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment. Thou art high above all the earth : thou art exalted far above all gods. In thy hand are the deep places of the earth : the strength of the hills is thine also. Thy goodness reaches to the heavens, thy glory shines throughout the creation, and thy mercy is spread over all thy works. Who can comprehend thine infinite perfections—who can rehearse thy noble acts—who can shew forth all thy praise !

No limits can be set to thy excellence—no bounds to thy presence—no cloud can darken thy glory—no influence can change thy purpose, and no event can affect thy felicity. Thy power, O God, can smooth our roughest paths, and brighten our darkest nights. In all our perplexities, thou canst make darkness light before us, and crooked things straight. Thou art righteous in all thy ways, and

holy in all thy works. From thy throne, thou beholdest all the children of men; and their most secret actions are open and naked to thine all-seeing eye. And such is the purity of thy nature, that thou lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity.

How then can we, thy guilty and polluted creatures, appear in thy presence or engage in thy service. We confess our sins are so many and so highly aggravated, that we have just cause to tremble when we appear before thee; but, O most merciful Father, presuming upon the goodness of thy divine nature, and the many gracious promises thou hast made, in Christ Jesus, to returning sinners, we humbly beseech thee, for his sake, to have mercy upon us.

We know, O Lord, that though we are weak and utterly unable of ourselves to shake off the galling fetters of our corrupt nature, yet thy grace is abundantly sufficient to deliver us. Our own consciences condemn us, and our sins cry aloud against us; but instead of being consumed, we have offered unto us a Saviour, whom to know is life everlasting. In Him thou givest pardon, reconciliation and adoption, by a covenant of grace, unto us perishing sinners.

Thou, O Lord, hast graciously promised, that if we turn from our evil ways, our sins, though as scarlet, shall be white as snow; though red as crimson, yet shall they be as wool. We would then flee to thee for pardon, through the blood of Christ; and for the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, to do what we purpose and resolve. May Christ be indeed precious to our souls, and may we have grace given us to believe on him, and to rely on him for every blessing of which we stand in need. And we humbly,

but earnestly beseech thee, O Lord, to grant us thy Holy Spirit—the author of all grace and holiness in us—to renew us in the spirit of our minds, to sanctify us wholly in spirit, in soul, and in body,—to enable us to mortify every corrupt thought and desire,—and to bring every purpose and imagination of our heart into obedience to the law of Christ. And grant, that we may not trust in any thing but in thee, our God, and in the merits of thy dear Son, so that, placing all our hope and all our confidence in thee, we may never neglect to do what thy grace enables us to do.

Let thy Fatherly hand, we beseech thee, be always over us. Let thy Holy Spirit be ever present with us, and strengthen us with the daily increase of thy manifold gifts and graces, that we may be enabled to overcome the most powerful temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Let no evil passion be ever suffered to reign in us ; let nothing that is offensive to thy pure eyes, be ever pleasing to ours. Give us a truly Christian spirit, the spirit of meekness and humility, of patience and charity, and endue us with that heavenly temper and disposition of mind which thou lovest and delightest in, and which is more to be desired than all that this world can possibly give us. Direct us in all our ways, and prosper the works of our hands.

Let us never act so ungratefully as to provoke thee to withdraw thy mercies from us ; but give us such a lively sense of thy loving-kindness towards us, as may excite us to thankfulness, and engage us to pay a willing and cheerful obedience to thy commandments, that, devoting ourselves entirely to thy service, we may daily grow in grace, and in the knowledge of thee, the Lord.

Be thou the strength of our heart and our portion for ever.

O Lord, plead thine own cause in the world. Build up thy Church, and erect the throne of the Redeemer on the ruins of Satan's kingdom.

Avert from us, O Lord, those judgments which we feel or fear, and continue to us the many temporal and spiritual advantages which, through thy favour, we enjoy. May every affliction be sanctified to the afflicted, and be the means of leading them to draw refreshment and consolation from the wells of salvation. Prepare the dying for death, judgment, and eternity. Comfort those who mourn the loss of departed relatives. Make us more and more sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of this life, and of the eternity of the next. Let our great concern here be for the glory of thee, our God, and the interests of our precious and immortal souls.

Bless and keep all who are near and dear to us ; may they know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, and his peace which passeth all understanding. We thank thee, O Lord, for the rest of the past night. Graciously continue thy protection and favour to us this day. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD GOD Almighty, Creator, Preserver, and Supreme Ruler of the universe, in whom we live and move and have our being, we, the humble creatures of thy hand, would, on the evening of another day, with lowly reverence, approach thy heavenly throne, confessing before thee our sins

and transgressions, and imploring forgiveness for the sake of Christ. Glory be to thy name for preserving us this day, and for blessing us with health and strength, enabling us to perform the duties that devolved upon us. We rejoice to know that thy care over us is so great, and thy knowledge of us so minute, that even the hairs of our head are all numbered. We thank thee, that thou hast made known to us that there is even joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. O may their joy ever increase, by intelligence reaching them of the conversion of sinners to the Saviour. May his kingdom increase, till it be commensurate with the globe, and all nations own his sway.

Sanctify us, O Lord, we earnestly beseech thee, through thy truth; thy word is truth. Bless the Lord, O our souls; and all that is within us bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all our iniquities; who healeth all our diseases; who redeemeth our life from destruction; and who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

Enable us, O heavenly Father, though we live in the world, not to live as of the world. May we live devoted to thy service—lives of faith on the Son of God. Whether we live may we live to the Lord, and whether we die may we die to the Lord, so that living or dying we may be the Lord's. May we ever live as stewards expecting to render an account of our stewardship in thy service. Enable us, O Lord, to live virtuously, holily, and godly in this present evil world. Impress more deeply upon our minds what thy word reveals, that without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

Enable us so to run in the divine life that we shall at last be accounted worthy to receive the crown, as the reward of our faith. May we ever bear in mind, that it is through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom, and so be prepared to meet with difficulties, temptations, and trials on our heavenward journey. But let us ever rejoice in the midst of all these, knowing that the more sufferings we endure here will only tend to make heaven the more sweet at the close.

Bless thy Church universal—all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. May great grace be upon them all. May they all be pure in spirit, single in heart, and rich in faith in that which pertaineth to the promises. Draw those to thee, with the cords of love, as with the bands of a man, who know thee not. May they come to thee as they are,—poor, guilty, perishing sinners, throwing aside all their own good works, and their self-righteousnesses, which are but filthy rags. May they not come doubting of Christ's ability to save them, but draw near with the same earnest and simple feelings with which a child would approach its earthly parent, believing that thou art able and willing to save to the very uttermost all that come unto thee through Him. May they come, believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.

Bless and take under thine especial care the young and rising generation. Raise up a seed to serve thee—a people that shall glorify thy name, and extend the kingdom of the Messiah. Protect them, O Lord, from all the snares with which the path of youth is so thickly beset. May they give their heart to thee in the morning of their days,

believing in the truth that thou lovest them that love thee, and that they that seek thee early shall find thee. May they shew themselves men of greater zeal and devotion than their fathers were.

Bless all those in whose welfare we feel interested, and whom we ought to remember at a throne of grace. May they remember us, and solicit on our behalf the same blessings we ask for them.

We earnestly pray that thy presence may be with us this night, and may we retire to rest enjoying thy favour and blessing. Graciously hear our prayers, remit all our offences, and accept of us in the Beloved. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O MOST blessed, glorious, and holy Lord God of hosts ! Thou art the high and the mighty One, who art from eternity. Thy kingdom is everlasting, and thy dominion endureth for ever. Thou art power, wisdom, and goodness ; the Creator of all things ; the preserver, the ruler, and benefactor of the world, who hast measured the waters in the hollow of thy hand, and meted out heaven with a span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance ! Thou suspendest the earth upon nothing. Thou bindest up the waters in thick clouds ; and the clouds are not rent under them. Thou hast compassed the waters with bounds, until day and night come to an end. The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at thy reproof. Thou dividest the sea with thy power, and, by thine understanding, thou smitest

through the proud. Great and marvellous are all thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, O thou King of Saints ! Great is our Lord, and of great power, his understanding is infinite.

Thou, the Lord, liftest up the meek, and castest the wicked to the ground. Thou takest pleasure in them that fear thee, in those that hope in thy mercy. We will praise thee, O Lord, with our whole heart ; we will shew forth all thy marvellous works. We will be glad and rejoice in thee ; we will sing praise to thy name, O thou most high !

We bless thee, O Lord, for the repeated instances of thy favour and loving-kindness which we have hitherto experienced ; for our constant preservation, and the undeserved benefits of thy bountiful Providence. We acknowledge, O our God, that thou hast, by innumerable instances, manifested thyself to be a most kind and indulgent Father ; but, alas ! we have abused thy goodness, and made very ungrateful returns for thine exceeding kindness and mercy. Instead of loving and delighting in thee, and yielding to thee a cheerful obedience, we have walked every one of us in the sight of his own eyes, and after the imagination of his own heart. We are verily guilty and polluted. In us, that is in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing. We cannot think even a good thought ; but when we would do good, evil is present with us, so that we cannot do the things we would.

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions which we have committed in thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty. Give us grace, O Lord, that we may truly repent, and become deeply grieved for all



our past negligences, and imperfections, and shortcomings in religious duties. O God, do thou make the remembrance of them most bitter and grievous to us, and the burden of them intolerable. Grant us repentance unto life, that we may not only be afraid of the consequences of sin, but ashamed of its defilement, and weary of its burden. Convince us that the sincerest and deepest repentance makes no satisfaction for our offences.

What cause have we to bless thy holy name, for having provided an atoning sacrifice for us, in that lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world ! On that great sacrifice, which our blessed Lord made of himself on the cross, would we ground all our hopes of forgiveness of our sins. Look, O Lord, upon us in the face of thine anointed. Blot out all our aggravated transgressions for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, whose blood cleanseth from all sin. Thou hast said, Whosoever believeth in him shall be saved. Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief. Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. To him would we look, and upon him would we depend, for the pardon of our sins, and the salvation of our souls. O that we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made conformable to his death. May the Holy Spirit, by the word of thy grace, which thou hast given us, enlighten our understandings ; open, soften, change and renew our hearts ; make us spiritually and heavenly minded, quicken our deadness, warm our affections and sanctify them ; subdue our passions, help us to pray, and strengthen us to resist temptations, and to persevere in our duty, and comfort us with a sense of his holy operations in

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us, whereby he testifies, together with our spirits, that we are the children of God, by faith in Christ Jesus. Thou knowest the weakness and corruption of our nature, and the manifold temptations to which we are exposed. We, therefore, humbly beseech thee to have compassion upon us, and give us the constant assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be effectually restrained from sin, and excited to our duty. And when thou seest us giving way to temptation, suffer us not to be tempted above that we are able, but stretch forth thy helping hand to save and deliver us. Let us feel the powerful effects, and the saving operations of grace, in fervency of devotion towards thee, in bitter repentance for offending thee, in holy resolutions never wilfully to offend thee any more, and in perseverance in those resolutions all our days, so that at last we may come to thy heavenly kingdom.

We pray that the gospel of the grace of God may be made known to the ends of the earth—that kings and nations may be converted, and submit to the government of Jesus Christ. May he reign by his word and Spirit in all hearts. And grant that all who profess the religion of thy dear Son, may live like brethren in the unity of the Spirit, and in the strictest bonds of charity and peace.

Bless all with whom we are connected by the ties of kindred or duty. Be a father to the fatherless ; a husband to the widow ; the orphan's stay, and the stranger's shield. Comfort those that mourn ; bind up the broken heart ; give peace to the troubled soul.

We thank thee for thy continual care and watchful providence over us, through the whole course of our lives, and especially for the mercies

and benefits of the past night. We beseech thee to continue these thy blessings to us, and to give us grace to manifest our sense of them and all thine other mercies. Keep us from evil this day, and enable us to love and serve thee.

Hear, O Lord, we beseech thee, the intercessions of thy unworthy servants, and let us find favour and acceptance with thee, through the merits, and for the sake of thy Son, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, we would desire to enter into thy presence, at this time, with feelings of the most profound awe and reverence, desiring it to be deeply impressed upon our minds that we are entering into the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We would approach thee, Lord, this evening with those feelings of humility with which it becomes the creature, at all times, to approach his Creator, to ask those blessings of which we stand in need, and which we know thou alone canst bestow. Do not, we earnestly beseech thee, reward us according to our deserts; for then we should receive no blessing: neither do thou answer us according to our limited askings; for then our supplies would be small indeed; but do thou bestow them according to that fulness which is treasured up in Christ Jesus. We rejoice to know, that giving, doth not impoverish thee; nor withholding, enrich thee. Do thou expand our hearts more, so as to receive greater blessings, and to enjoy more abundantly thy loving-kindness.

Lord, teach us how to pray, and what things to

pray for. We feel that it is an easy thing to assume the posture of devotion ; but we confess that it is a difficult thing to have the heart devout. Thou art a Spirit, and they that worship thee must worship thee in spirit and in truth. Teach us, Lord, by thy good Spirit, how to worship thee acceptably, and only to ask for those things which are agreeable to thy will. We bless thee, that thou withholdest from us what we ask as blessings, but which, were they given to us, would indeed prove curses. We confess, O Lord, that we often ask amiss—often doubtingly ; but do thou, for Christ's sake, freely pardon all our sins of omission and commission.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, whom thou, in infinite love, didst send into the world to bear away the world's sins. We would ever rejoice in that Saviour, feeling that it is through him and for his sake that we have received the forgiveness of our sins, and all the blessings we enjoy. We thank thee, O Lord, for all the temporal mercies with which thou hast this day supplied us. Thou art ever providing for our wants, as often as they come hourly and daily round ; and we earnestly pray that, as thou art daily nourishing our perishing bodies with temporal food, that thou wouldst likewise nourish our souls with the bread of life, which never perisheth. Satisfy our souls, O Lord, with the fatness of thy house, and let us rejoice in thee, the Rock of our salvation.

We bless thee, O our God, for the revelation of thy character and will, which thou hast made known to us in thy word ; that thou hast therein revealed thyself as the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in

goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin. We rejoice, O Lord, to know that thou art not only seated on a throne of justice, but also on a throne of grace, dispensing blessings to the children of men.

Speed, in thine own time, that glorious period when all nations shall know the joyful sound, and when all nations shall call thee blessed. Establish those in the fear of the Lord, who have been converted from among the heathen. Keep them from again returning to their idols, and enable them to shew, by their consistency and devotion to the service of their Redeemer, that their God is the Lord, and thereby lead others to the service and worship of thee, the only living and true God.

We kneel at thy footstool, heavenly Father, as children soliciting thy blessing. Bless us all according to our respective wants; adapt thy grace to our various necessities. If there are any of us who are still strangers to thee, do thou lead such to thyself—the centre of light and joy and peace; and grant that, when all thy wise purposes are accomplished with us here, thou wilt minister unto us an abundant entrance into thy presence and glory—a whole family in heaven.

We put ourselves under thine omnipotent arm, and would lay ourselves down in peace. Hear us, good Lord, we beseech thee, and forgive us all our sins, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

O ETERNAL and ever blessed and glorious Lord God! Thou art God over all, and blessed for

ever ; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords ; our Lord and our God !

Thy power, O God, is not controlled by any superior strength, nor thine immensity terminated by any bounds of space ; so neither is thy duration limited by any periods of time. Thou art the Supreme Being who gave existence to all other things, and could not possibly have any beginning thyself.. Thou canst be influenced by no power, impaired by no time, nor varied by any change. Thou art the great first cause, the original self-sufficient and underived fountain of being, whose essence is always the same, and whose power and perfections vary not with any changes of time. Thou art infinitely and absolutely happy in the perfections and internal operations of thine own nature ; thou art thine own light and thine own object ; thy happiness is fixed and immovable, without mixture or measure ; and thy self-enjoyment secure and everlasting without alloy or intermission. Thy majesty no thought can comprehend ; thy glory no eye can behold ; from thy presence no swiftness can flee ; from thy knowledge no secrecy can conceal us ; and of thy bounty and goodness every creature is made a partaker.

We acknowledge, O Lord, with gratitude and praise, thine unspeakable goodness and unbounded mercy towards us sinners, who have merited thy just indignation. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed, even because thy compassion fails not.

We adore thee for the riches of thy grace and mercy, which thou hast manifested in the redemption of our apostate fallen race. Blessed be thy name, that when all had sinned and come short of

the glory of God, so that by the deeds of the law no flesh could be justified in thy sight, thou didst set forth thy Son, whose perfect obedience and death satisfied the demands of that law, that thou mightest be just, and the justifier of them that believe in Him. We adore thee, that he hath magnified the law, and made it honourable; that he hath finished transgression, made an end of sin, made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in an everlasting righteousness.

We bless thee, O Lord, for the covenant of grace made with us in Christ Jesus, and for all the exceeding great and precious promises and privileges of that covenant; for the throne of grace erected for us, to which we may, in his name, come with humble boldness, and for the hope of eternal life through him. We thank thee for all those benefits which are the fruits of his obedience and death; and we pray that by thy grace we may become savingly interested in them. Do thou enable us to trust in thine Almighty power to help and save; in thy loving-kindness, to pity and relieve; and in thy exceeding great and precious promises made unto all that wait upon thee. We are not sufficient to ask anything as of ourselves. May our sufficiency be of thee. May the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus make us free from the law of sin and of death.

We desire, O Lord, to resign ourselves to thee, and to do every thing that is an evidence of our love and obedience, and by all our words, actions, yea, and the most secret thoughts of our hearts, to express our unfeigned and sincere affection to God, our Creator; to the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; and to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter—one God in three persons, blessed for ever.

We pray that our sins may be washed away through faith in the blood of thy dear Son ; and that we may be accepted in him. Do thou vouchsafe us the assistance of thy grace and Holy Spirit, that we may not be tempted above what we are able to bear, but, through thine Almighty power, may we be enabled to persevere in our Christian warfare, and successfully to encounter and overcome those enemies of our souls—the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Increase and keep alive in us thy faith ; may we live in thy favour, and die in thy peace ; and at last, through thy mercy, be found meet to be partakers of the everlasting inheritance of the saints in light.

We humbly beseech thee, O Lord, to accomplish all that thou hast promised concerning thy Church in the latter days. Let the earth be filled with thy glory. Let the fulness of the Gentiles be brought in, and let all Israel be saved.

Do thou, O God, extend thy compassion to the sons and daughters of affliction. Look upon their affliction and their pain, and forgive all their sin.

Bless the ministers of thy Holy Word and Sacraments. Especially do thou bless him whom thou hast appointed to minister unto us in things pertaining to salvation ; make his labours effectual for the good of our souls, and us willing to be guided and directed by him.

We give thee thanks, gracious God, for all thy past mercies. Be with us, we pray thee, through this day, and fit us for every duty. Bless all who are near and dear to us. Grant that they may be among the happy number of thy redeemed people.



May they be sealed by the holy Spirit of adoption, and loved with an everlasting love.

Hear us, O most merciful Father, through the mediation, and for the sake of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, our God, thou art very great ; thou art clothed with honour and majesty ; thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment ; thou stretchest out the heavens like a curtain ; thou laidest the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever, and thou coveredest it with the deep as with a garment. Into thy sacred presence we would desire to come now with those feelings of humility, with which it becomes the creature to approach his Creator.

When we reflect, O Lord, on our ingratitude for all thy goodness towards us ; on the indifference with which we have often regarded thy commands, setting up our own rebellious hearts against the dictates of thy most holy law ; and on the neglect with which we have often treated thy great salvation, we are astonished at the long-suffering and forbearance which thou hast exercised towards us. Justly mightst thou, O Lord, have left us to eat of the fruit of our own way, and be filled with our own devices. Justly mightst thou have given us up, and have said regarding us, they are joined to their idols, let them alone. It is of thy tender mercies, O Lord, that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not. O Lord, hadst thou been strict to have marked iniquity against us, we could not have answered

thee for one of a thousand of our transgressions, and thou mightst have cut us down as cumberers of the ground, and banished us from the place of hope to the regions of despair, where there is the blackness of darkness for ever. But for ever blessed be thy merciful name, that, instead of condemning us, as our sins had justly merited, thou hast blessed us for the sake of Jesus Christ, thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, who died that we might live. Glory be to thy name, for this gift of thy love; and throughout eternity we shall praise thee for having made us its recipients.

We desire, O heavenly Father, to offer to thee our thanks for thy care towards us this day. Thou hast shielded us from all evil, and we again kneel at the footstool of thy majesty, the receivers of so many blessings and mercies.

Grant, Almighty Father, that the same mind may be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. And O may Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with the fulness of God.

Bless abundantly thine own people. Thou, Lord, hast ever promised to bless thine own heritage. Thou delightest to hear thy children plead thy promises with thee. Do thou now, we

earnestly entreat of thee, fulfil thy promise, in their sweet experience. Do thou increase the number of the faithful ; add daily to them of the saved.

We would especially remember before thee the sick, the distressed, and the afflicted. We would rejoice in the belief of the truth, that our Saviour and their's, is God as well as man ; and that, although he has now ascended to the right hand of thy throne, he still bends on earth a brother's eye : and being bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, he can sympathise with us, in the midst of frailty and affliction. Be very gracious and merciful to those of thy people who are on the verge of the world to come. May their prospect of the land of rest be clear. And when they shall reach its glorious portals, and feel themselves for the first time safe—free from sin, temptation, and death,—when glory shall burst upon their enraptured gaze, and their souls will thrill with ecstasy, as the angelic strains of heaven's music will fall upon their ear, may they be greeted with thy smile and welcome, Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord.

And now to Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us ; unto Him be glory, world without end. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD, heaven is thy throne, and the earth is thy footstool, and even the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. Thou, the Lord, by wisdom hast founded the earth : by understanding hast thou established the heavens. By thy knowledge

the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. How unsearchable is thine understanding, and thy ways past finding out ! O that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence. Thy glory hath covered the heavens, and the earth is full of thy praise. At thy presence, the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow ; thy ways are everlasting. Thy name, O Lord, endureth for ever ; and thy memorial throughout all generations. Every day will we bless thee ; and we will praise thy name for ever.

How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God !—how great is the sum of them ! If we should count them, they are more in number than the sand. Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord, his God.

We give thee thanks, O most gracious God, that thou hast manifested thyself to us, the sinful children of men, in thy works of creation and providence ; and that thy glorious perfections have been most illustriously displayed in the wonderful work of our redemption. Thou hast therein declared thyself to be a God of love, as well as of holiness—a God of mercy, as well as of justice ; and that thy truth has been fully maintained in the fulfilment of all thy promises, and in the accomplishment of all thy purposes.

We rejoice, O Lord, that when our first parents, by means of their disobedience, had brought death and misery upon themselves and all their posterity, thou didst make known thy design for the salvation of sinners in the promise, that the seed of the woman should bruise the head of the serpent.

Blessed be thy name that this promise was renewed from age to age. Blessed be God that to us the word of salvation hath been sent—to us the mystery hid from ages and generations hath been revealed; that before our eyes those things have been set forth which many kings and righteous men have desired in vain to behold; and that God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his own Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, and by whom also he made the worlds.

We bless thee that our eyes see the joyful light, and our ears hear the joyful sound of a Redeemer, and salvation by him; that life and immortality are brought to light by the gospel.

We desire penitently to implore thy pardoning mercy through Christ Jesus, who by thine own appointment came into the world, not only to give us divine instructions, confirmed by the most astonishing miracles, and recommended by the most amiable and perfect example, but also to redeem us unto God by his blood, and to give his life a ransom for us; who was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification; and is now ascended into heaven, there to make prevailing intercession for all who come unto God through him.

May the eyes of our understanding be enlightened to see the excellency of Christ, and the alone sufficiency, and all-sufficiency of his grace for our salvation. Enable us to receive Christ as he is offered to us in the gospel, and may we never rest satisfied till we are assured that we have an interest in what he did and suffered. May we never doubt of thy love, nor despair of thy readiness to

save us. May we walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and given himself for us. Grant that we may be effectually called into fellowship with Christ, and by faith be united to him, so that Christ may live in us, and that we may grow up unto him in all things, who is the head; that we may bring forth fruit in him; and whatever we do in word or deed, we may do all in his name. O let us have the spirit of Christ, so that we may make it appear we are his. And we pray that through him we may have eternal life, that none of us may come short of it, but that all of us may have the first fruits and earnest of it abiding in us. Let thy grace be mighty in us, and sufficient for us.

O, while in the world, may we never lose sight of that eternal world which lies so near us. May its glories eclipse, in our eyes, all the empty splendours of this scene, which is soon to vanish away. When in the world, may we be on our guard against temptation; and when we are alone, may we remember that we have not escaped from the sphere of danger. Wherever we are, may we bear in mind our weakness and proneness to fall into sin. May we be kept by thine Almighty power, through faith, unto eternal salvation.

Send forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy light and thy truth, to dispel the clouds of ignorance and error which overspread so great a part of the world, that those who are living in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death, may be brought to the light of the glorious gospel of the Son of God, and be enabled to enlist under the banners of the great Captain of our salvation.

Be merciful to the sinful country to which we belong. O may this professedly Christian country be a nation of Christians. May all who name the

name of Christ depart from iniquity. Bless all those who preach Christ and his resurrection, of whatever name or denomination they may be.

Bless all our relations and friends. Sanctify them by thy Holy Spirit.

Be merciful, O God, to all that are in affliction or distress: be pleased to support and comfort them, and in thy due time to deliver them according to thy great mercy.

Be with us this day. May we walk in thy fear, and be guided by thy Spirit in the paths of righteousness and peace. And all that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

### FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, thou art the omnipresent, the omniscient, and omnipotent Jehovah. Thou art He who filleth earth and heaven with thy presence. Thou art He to whose eyes all things are open and naked. Thou knowest our down-sitting and up-rising; thou understandest our thoughts afar off. Thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. For there is not a word in our tongue, but, lo! O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Whither shall we go from thy Spirit, or flee from thy presence? If we ascend into heaven, thou art there; if we make our bed in hell, behold thou art there. If we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead us, and thy right hand shall hold us. The darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Enable us, O Lord, when we know thy character, to order aright before thee our thoughts and behaviour. May our words be few and well chosen. May we ever come into thy presence deeply sensible of our own imperfections and unworthiness, and of thy holiness and purity. Forbid, O Lord, that any of us should take thy holy name into our polluted lips, and offer thee merely the service of the tongue, while our heart and thoughts are far from thee, wandering upon the mountains of vanity. But grant, Almighty God, that we may ever worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

O merciful High Priest, do thou intercede for us. We feel that we are sinful, frail beings ; but we rejoice that we have not an high-priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. May we therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Glory be to thee, O God, for the manifestation of the riches of thy grace in Christ Jesus. When angels rebelled against thine authority, thou didst condemn them to everlasting chains and darkness. But when man disobeyed thy command, there was heard the sweet voice of mercy, saying, respecting him, Save from going down to the pit, I have found out a ransom. Who can fathom the depth of that love, or who can scale its height ? We rejoice to know that Christ took upon himself our nature, and came to earth to accomplish the work which thou gavest him to do ; and that, when upon the cross, he exclaimed, before giving up the ghost, It is finished ! And we bless thee that thou didst by raising him from the



dead, not only signify to us, that his work was finished, but also that it was accepted. May it be ours to possess a personal interest in Christ's work, and have within our souls the germ of life eternal, which is to know thee, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

Do thou, O Lord, bless the young with the special tokens of thy favour. May they all, if it be thy will to spare them till they reach the years of manhood, prove themselves men mighty in the Scriptures. And, O Lord, do thou keep them unspotted from the world, and the world's sins.

We commend to thy care and sympathy the afflicted and the distressed. Rebuke their disease, if it be thy holy will ; but if thou hast otherwise decreed, grant them patience and faith. And, O Lord, we earnestly pray that a separation may take place between their soul and sin, before the soul quits the body.

Bless all, O Lord, who desire an interest in our prayers—our friends and acquaintances who are united to us by the ties of affection. Pour down upon them and us the healthful influences of thy Holy Spirit.

Do thou, who hast hitherto been our guide, guard us this night. May Jacob's God be our God, and may the God of Israel bless us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD GOD, thou art an infinite and eternal Spirit, most perfect in power, and wisdom, and goodness, whom mortal eyes cannot behold, nor any created understanding comprehend. We who

are utterly unworthy to mention thy great and awful name, encouraged by thine own command and promises, and the mediation and intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died to redeem us from all iniquity, and to recover us to holiness, and to the enjoyment of thy favour, humbly approach unto thee, to acknowledge thy mercies, to confess our sins, to supplicate pardon, to praise thee for thy manifold and continued benefits bestowed upon us, and to implore future blessings, for the supply both of our temporal and spiritual wants. Thou, O Lord, art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Let thy mercies come unto us, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word. Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from us, O Lord. Let thy loving-kindness, and thy truth continually preserve us.

O Lord, we lament and bewail the deep corruption of our nature, confessing that there is in us a heart of unbelief, a heart given to the world, and to the pleasures and profits of it. We confess with sorrow that this world has taken so strong a hold of our affections, and that our devotion to thee is so cold and languid. Our prayers are full of deadness and distraction, and the very best of our religious duties are accompanied with failings and imperfections. How forgetful have we been of thy goodness; how insensible of our obligations; how careless in improving our Christian privileges and advantages! We have indeed done those things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone the things which it was our bounden duty to perform. Give us grace, O Lord, to search every secret of our heart, that we may leave no sin unrepented of. Fill our eyes

with tears, that with those tears we may lament all the indignities we have offered to thy love. O wound our hearts with the darts of thy love, and deliver us from all the inclinations of impure and deceitful self-love. Enlighten our eyes and touch our souls, in order to give us the true knowledge and sense of thy love, of thy mercy, of thy wisdom, and of thy power; as also of our own nothingness, of our unfaithfulness and darkness, of our folly and wickedness, of our misery and of our weakness. Do thou, O Lord, reform whatever thou seest amiss in the temper and disposition of our minds, or in any of the actions of our lives. Enable us to wrestle in prayer against unbelief, doubtings, fears, and cares; against all evil desires, coldness of affection, impatience and trouble of spirit, and everything that is contrary to a holy life.

Grant us redemption, we humbly pray, through the peace-speaking blood of Jesus, even the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of thy grace; and grant that we may live from henceforth as becomes the redeemed of the Lord, the children of light, and the candidates for a blessed immortality. May we be directed and influenced to duty, not merely by external law, but powerfully inclined to the performance of it by a law in our minds, inscribed on them by the Spirit of the living God. May our affections be disengaged from the world, and all its enticing enjoyments. May they be no longer dazzled with glittering vanities, but fixed on thee, our supreme and all-sufficient God. Help us frequently to withdraw our thoughts from this earth, this scene of misery and folly, and sin; and raise them to that more glorious world whose blessed inhabitants delight them-

selves eternally in the divine presence, and know no other passion but an unmixed joy and an unbounded love. May the abundant communication of the spirit that is in Christ Jesus form us to this happy temper. We thank thee that thou hast clearly revealed to us the mystery of thy will and mercy in Christ Jesus, for the obedience of faith. Firmly believing it, may we yield a cheerful and willing submission to it, that so, by its means, we may obtain everlasting salvation. Give thy Holy Word free course, and let it be glorified in every land and among every people.

Sanctify the afflictions of the afflicted, and grant unto them every blessing of which they may stand in need.

May all our friends and relatives be the objects of thy peculiar care and love, and may our enemies be interested in thy pardoning grace. Bless each of us in this family. Bless those dear children thou hast given us, and assist us, by thy good Spirit, to bring them up in the fear of thee our God. Defend them, O Lord, from the evils and temptations of this world, and grant that as they grow in years, they may increase in grace, and in thy favour, and be comforts to us all our days.

We commit ourselves to the protection of thy providence and grace, through the whole of this day.

Hear us, and answer us, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, thou art great, and greatly to be praised ; thou art worthy

to be adored and feared above all gods. All the gods of the heathen are dumb idols ; but thou art the Creator of the heavens : and glory belongeth to the Lord alone.

We would draw near to the footsool of thy majesty, with the voice of prayer and of supplication. We have to praise thee, O Lord, for the mercies of another week. Thou hast been very gracious to us, and very mindful of us. We thank thee, O Lord, for the health with which thou hast blessed us, which has enabled us not only to enjoy all the mercies which thou art hourly and daily lavishing upon us ; but also to perform the duties of life required of us. We thank thee, that thou hast blessed us in our basket and store. Our bread has been given us, and our water has been sure. We would ever offer up the petition, Give us day by day our daily bread.

We have not only to thank thee for the temporal mercies of the week, but also for the spiritual blessings which thou hast conferred on us, for Christ's sake. O continue to pour down upon our souls the healthful spirit of thy grace.

Many are thy wonderful works, Lord God of hosts ; and thy thoughts which are to us-ward ; instead of being fraught with vengeance and with death, they are fraught with life and joy and peace. We thank thee, O God of our salvation, that thou hast wrought redemption for us, and hast brought us up out of the horrible pit and out of the miry clay, set our feet upon a rock, and established our goings, and put a new song in our mouth, even praise unto our God. We bless thee, O our God, that we have experienced that thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering and slow to wrath, and plenteous in mercy. We rejoice to know, that

thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, upon them that fear thee. O may it be ours to sing of the mercy of the Lord for ever ! The Lord grant us our request. The Lord bless us now and for evermore.

We pray, O Lord, on behalf of the people called by thy name. Although we are separated from them by distance and by seas, may we ever rejoice that we have the same throne of grace to which we can betake ourselves, the same Saviour for our Intercessor, and the same God for our Father ; and may our requests, as they rise, blend together before thy throne. Grant, O Lord, that as they are called by thy name, they may shew forth thy glory, and evince to the world that they are indeed Christians—that they have been with Jesus. May they be as lights in the world—as cities set on a hill.

Be with those who are passing through scenes of affliction and trial. May they feel thy hand upholding them, and thy grace supporting them. As their day is, so may their strength be. Do thou make thy grace sufficient for them, and perfect thy strength in their weakness. Grant, Almighty Father, that amid all the scenes of conflict and trial through which thy people are called to pass here below, they may enjoy the light of thy countenance, and a sense of thy pardoning mercy.

Solemnize and prepare our minds, O Lord, for entering on the services of a coming Sabbath. May we look forward to it with feelings of joy and delight. And when we shall have finished our course here, may we hail the dawning of the Sabbath which shall have no end. Bless thy ministers who will make known thy word. May they come forth with their own souls watered and fully

fraught with the blessings of the gospel of peace. Bless, in an especial manner, the church with which we are connected. Bless our pastor with the rich effusions of thy heavenly grace, so that he may be instant in season and out of season. Make him more and more useful in thy vineyard. Bless all the families in the church. May thy worship be observed in the midst of them, and thy fear and love have a place in their hearts. Bless the individual members. May they all feel that the grand secret of a church's success is individual prayer, personal piety, and personal effort.

Sensible of our own weakness and insufficiency, we would cast ourselves on thy protection. Guard our pillow during the silent hours of sleep, and awake us, in the morning, in thy fear. All we ask is, through the merits, and for the sake of our Redeemer. Amen.

## Second Week.

### SABBATH MORNING.

OUR FATHER, who art in Heaven ; we approach thy footstool, on the morning of this sacred day, with the voice of thanksgiving and of praise. Our fathers trusted in thee, and thou didst deliver them ; they cried unto thee, and were delivered ; they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. Who can by searching find out God, who can find out the Almighty unto perfection ? It is as high as heaven, what can we do ? deeper than hell, what can we know ? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. Thou art the mighty and the terrible Jehovah,—the Lord God of hosts.

This is the day thou hast hallowed for thy worship, as commemorative of the Resurrection of our crucified, but now exalted and glorious Redeemer ; and we would desire both to devote it to thy service, and to welcome it as a day of rest. We would ever linger with delight, with our hearts full of gratitude, round the spot on Calvary, and, with the eye of faith, gaze upon the cross, and feeling our own nothingness, reflect with adoring gratitude on what took place for us,—that it was there that a world's sins were atoned for,—that it was there the king of glory died a felon's death, with malefactors amidst the scoffings and spitings of those, whom he came to seek and to save. And we would also contemplate with delight the truth which this morning recalls to



our mind of his resurrection. We rejoice that thou didst signify, by raising him from the dead, that his work was not only finished, but that it was also accepted by thee.

We would desire to bless thee now, and hope to bless thee for ever, for having led us to the cross, and that on account of the Saviour's blood there shed, all our sins have been washed away; and that we have become partakers of that peace, which passeth all understanding; and have been made partakers of thy marvellous love. We bless and adore thy name, for the gift of thy Son for the salvation of man. In this, indeed, was love, not that we loved thee, but that thou didst first love us, and sent thy Son into the world, to be the propitiation for our sins. O that we could fully estimate that love, and by the consecration of our body, soul, and spirit to thee, shew our gratitude for having made us the subjects of that love.

We thank thee, O our God, for the many precious privileges which we enjoy on a Christian Sabbath. We bless thee for the institution of the means of grace whereby the faith of thy people is strengthened, and their souls edified, and built up in their most holy faith. Enable us, O Lord, ever to carry about with us the distinct conviction, that unto whom much is given, of them also much shall be required. Teach us, O Lord, to improve aright all our privileges and means of grace, so that they may be sanctified to our souls, and accomplish in us that for which thou hast so mercifully bestowed them. Enable us so to improve all our privileges, talents, and time, that when death approaches, we shall not have to cast back one lingering look of regret, or painful

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thought, but be enabled to render our account with joy.

Bless, O Lord God, we earnestly beseech thee, thy ministering servants this day. May they be strong in faith, and bold in the Lord. May they realize the responsibility of their situation; and be alive to the value of the immortal soul; and may they evince their sincerity, and the veracity of the truths they utter, by the simplicity with which they present them, and the earnestness with which they deliver them. We earnestly pray thee, O Lord, that thou wouldst ever keep thy Church from the scourge of an unchristian ministry. May all those who are engaged in, and those who are preparing for the work of the holy ministry, be men chosen of thee, men trained under the guidance and teaching of thy Holy Spirit. We thank thee, that thou hast blessed thy Zion with spiritual and living workmen; do thou still continue to bless her, and that more abundantly.

Grant, O Lord God, that this may be a day on which thy name shall be greatly magnified in the conversion of many sinners. May there be great joy among the angels of God over penitent and returning sinners, and may earth's song of praise, perfumed with the much incense of a Saviour's sacrifice, blending with their celestial anthems, rise and roll in one gush of melody before thy throne.

Hasten, O Lord, that period which thou hast foretold in Scripture, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters do the sea. May Christ soon reign as Spiritual King; and all nations be subject to the sway of his sceptre.

Bless thy servant whom thou hast set over us in holy things, with the richest of thy blessings. May he be an able and efficient minister of the New Covenant—a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. May he speak because he believes; and grant that he may have many seals to his ministry on the day thou makest up thy jewels. Bless the Church under his charge. May she abound in every good grace and work. Be with those of thy people who may be detained from worshipping thee in thy house of prayer. Meet with them in their retirement; and may they feel that Jacob's God is their God.

Go with us to the public meetings of thy saints. May we experience thy presence and blessing. Thou hast said, that where two or three are met together in thy name, there art thou in the midst of them, to bless them, and to do them good. Fulfil thy promise this day.

Hear our petitions, accept our services, in the Beloved, and bless us for His sake. Amen.

## SABBATH EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY and gracious God! We would again present ourselves at the footstool of thy throne; and we would adore thee for the numberless blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which thou hast bestowed upon us. Teach us, O Lord, ever to bear in mind, that it is in thee we live, move, and have our being. By thee we were formed; by thee have our lives been prolonged; by thee have our comforts been multiplied; by thee have our wants been supplied. We have nothing, O

Lord, which we have not received from thee. Thine is the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the raiment wherewith we are clothed. O may the multitude of thy mercies have a due influence on our hearts, our tempers, and our conduct.

But, O heavenly Father, great as our temporal blessings are, they are far exceeded by what thou hast done for our souls. Thou hast opened a fountain for sin and uncleanness; thou hast raised up a deliverer who is mighty to save. Through the riches of thy grace, we have in Christ Jesus a priest to make atonement for our sins,—a physician to heal our diseases,—a shepherd to protect and feed us,—a guide to direct our feet in the way of peace. To him we desire to bring our guilty souls to be washed in his blood; and sanctified by his Spirit. What deep and heartfelt contrition do our sins call for! Lord give us that godly sorrow, which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of. May we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith; and may the life we now live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us: and though now we see him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. May we receive Christ in all his offices, that he may be made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. He alone has everlasting life, and He only can bestow it upon others. Our confidence is not in ourselves. Our hope is in thee, in thy mercy, and all-sufficiency. Do for us above all that we can ask or think, and supply what is wanting in us. O let the love of Christ be shed abroad in our hearts, that we may be filled with contrition

for our offences against so gracious a God ; that we may be enabled to rejoice in thy mercy ; and that all our days we may glorify thee in our bodies, and in our spirits which are thine. By the agency of thy Spirit, may we be delivered from the bondage of corruption, set free from the law of sin and death, and made to rejoice in the glorious liberty of the children of God.

May we be diligent in the use of all the means of grace, with which we are favoured ; and we do humbly beseech thee, gracious God, to enlighten and strengthen us by thy Holy Spirit, to perform the vows and resolutions we have often made, of loving and obeying thee. Preserve us living members of the body of Christ, dutiful and dear children of thee our God, and heirs, through faith in Christ, of the kingdom of heaven ; that through the mercy of thee our God and Father, and the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ thy Son, and the guidance and sanctification of the Holy Spirit, we may, in thy good time, attain the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, to the glory of thy grace.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the Sabbath day—a day sacred to the commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ; and we thank thee for the renewed opportunity thou hast afforded us of assembling together this day in thy house of prayer. Blessed be thou, O God, for the privileges of thy house and comforts with which thou makest thy people joyful in the house of prayer.

Let thy word which we have heard be abundantly blessed to us, and sealed by thy Holy Spirit on our hearts. Make us duly sensible of our privileges, and grant that we may improve them

aright. Forgive the sins of our holy things; for imperfection cleaves to our best services.

We pray, O Lord, that the predicted time may speedily come when the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings, and illuminate the whole world; when the Gentiles shall come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising, and all Israel shall be saved.

Let the reformed churches be more and more reformed. Raise up more faithful ministers who shall be the honoured instruments of bringing the people to choose thee with all their hearts, and to serve thee fully. While so many instruments of corruption and ruin are permitted to injure men, we pray, that thou wouldst be graciously pleased to send forth men into thy vineyard who have their salvation at heart, and who will faithfully labour for its accomplishment.

We pray thee, O Lord, to be with those who are now labouring to propagate the gospel in foreign parts; strengthen their hands, and encourage their hearts, support them under every discouragement they may meet with, and may their endeavours be crowned with abundant success.

Continue thy mercies, O Lord, to this guilty land of which we are inhabitants. Bless abundantly her Majesty the Queen, protect her person, direct her counsels, and prosper all her endeavours for the peace and welfare of her dominions; bless also the Queen's consort; and vouchsafe thine Almighty protection to the whole of the Royal Family.

Surround our Queen's throne with the wise and faithful of our land, men fearing God, hating covetousness, and having the good of their country at heart.

Bless all inferior rulers, judges and magistrates. May they be endued with the spirit of their station, and may we under them lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty.

We would intercede with thee, O Lord, on behalf of all the sons and daughters of affliction. O give such to know, that affliction comes not forth from the dust, nor trouble from the ground ; but that all is permitted and sent by thee for wise ends and purposes, for their humiliation and spiritual improvement. Spare useful lives ; and prepare the dying for their great change. Comfort those who are mourning the loss of near and dear friends and relations.

We pray for those who, by age or infirmity, were prevented from worshipping thee in the public ordinances of thine appointment this day.

Take us under thy Fatherly care and protection this night, and grant, that we may awake in the morning with hearts so filled with the remembrance of thy goodness, and so enriched with thy grace, that we may persevere with undeviating steps in the paths of righteousness and peace unto the end.

Hear, O Lord, these our humble supplications, and when thou hearest, forgive ; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD, thou art the great and the holy one who inhabitest eternity and its praises, before whom seraphim and cherubim veil their faces, and their feet with their wings, proclaiming in accents of unceasing adoration, Holy ! holy ! holy ! is the

Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory. Thou art seated on thine eternal throne in the heavens, and angels, and archangels, and redeemed spirits celebrate thy praise, casting their crowns at thy feet, saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. We rejoice, O our God, to know, that, though thou art thus seated on thine everlasting throne, thou condescendest to listen to the prayers of thy people, and hast desired us to ask in Christ's name, and we shall receive, that our joy may be full; and we bless thee, that we have ever found thee, to our experience, to be a God at hand, and not afar off.

We thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast watched over us during sleep, and hast again awaked us in thy fear. Thou art an ever-faithful God, watching over and protecting all thy creatures.

We would ever adore, and bless thy holy name, O Lord, that although thou didst pass over fallen angels, thou hadst respect to fallen man, and didst, in regard to him, exclaim, when the sword of justice was hanging over his head, ready to execute the sentence of thy holy law, which he had broken and violated, Save from going down to the pit, for I have found out a ransom. We bless thee, that that ransom has been paid in the gift of thy dear Son; and that a way has been opened up, by which the guiltiest sinner, no matter how innumerable his sins, or how accumulated his guilt, can take his stand on the finished work of Christ, and pleading his merits, as his ground of acceptance with thee, can sue for pardon and peace. In that gift indeed is love, not that we loved thee, our God, but that thou didst first love



us, and gave thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Herein indeed is love unparalleled and unmerited. We rejoice to know that it is for his sake that we receive all the blessings which thou art daily lavishing upon us. Keep us, O Lord, we earnestly beseech thee, from receiving these blessings, and yet spurning the hand that bestows them. But may we ever, by our conduct and conversation, testify the gratitude of our hearts.

Bless us as we now surround thy throne. Teach us to serve thee more devotedly, and to love thee better. Make us more wholly thine own,—to live less to the world, and more to thy glory. Grant, Almighty Father, that we may live more holily during the week that is now begun than we have ever done in times past; and that we may also imbibe and exemplify more of the spirit of Christ.

Bless all our friends, near and dear to us, with the blessings of which thou seest they stand in need. We commit them and ourselves to thy care and keeping.

We especially pray on behalf of thine own people. Bless them, O our God, abundantly; and daily increase their number.

We would commend to thy paternal sympathy all those who may be in the furnace of affliction. May they feel it good to be afflicted, that they may learn thy statutes; and that thou ever usest thy rod towards them in love. May they bow submissively beneath the rod, and kiss it. May their present affliction, which is not joyous, but grievous, work out in them the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Be very near to the dying: may they feel thy hand supporting them, as their latter end draws nigh. Enable them to look away from themselves, and their own imperfections, to

Christ, and to Christ's finished work, resting on him alone for salvation. May the dark valley of the shadow of death be lighted up with thy love; and may they walk through it, leaning on the arm of their beloved Saviour, and reach the new Jerusalem in safety, where they shall help to swell the song of praise to him that bought them, and redeemed them by his blood, and made them kings and priests unto God.

We put ourselves under thy protecting care this day. Shield us from all danger, and keep us in thy fear. Hear us, good Lord, for the sake of thy Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

### MONDAY EVENING.

O ETERNAL and adorable Father of mercies and God of all grace and consolation, who shall not fear thee, and glorify thy name, for thou only art holy! With angels and archangels, and all the blessed spirits, who surround thy throne, help us, we beseech thee, to celebrate thy praises. And while we humble ourselves before thee, impressed with thy greatness and majesty, and filled with a sense of thy goodness and grace, O do thou, who dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth, and come and save us. How transcendent and amazing have been the discoveries of thy love towards man! It was thy power, O God, that brought him into being, when he was nothing; and after that he had rendered himself worse than nothing, thy love restored him to happiness. Thou didst make man, at first, after thine own image; and though by his fall and apostacy, he had forfeited those glorious privileges for which

he was created, yet thou didst not abandon him, nor give up accomplishing in him thy gracious designs. Thy wisdom, O Almighty God, contrived a way for his recovery ; a way so full of mercy and love, that heaven and earth may well stand amazed at it. It is the incarnation of thy dear Son. For thou didst so love the world, that thou gavest thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. O the height and depth, the breadth and length of this incomprehensible love of thine ! It surpasses all understanding ! What goodness and mercy are discoverable in this thy love ! How can we, the children of men, think or speak of it, without wonder and amazement ! How should it fill our souls with love, and joy, and admiration, to consider that thou shouldst forgive the injuries of a rebellious world, and entertain thoughts of mercy towards it ; that thou shouldst pass by such vast loads of guilt, and regard mankind, when they were alienated from thee, and offer terms of peace to those who were thine enemies, and invite sinners to return and live. How infinitely amazing is this ! O what mind can conceive, what tongue can express the exceeding and stupendous greatness of this thy love ! Draw near, O our souls, and behold this great sight. Behold the beloved Son of God, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth, yet humbling himself unto death, even the death of the cross, so as to become a propitiation for our sins, that we through him might obtain eternal life, and everlasting happiness.

Blessed be thy name, that he was permitted to suffer, that he might be the Redeemer of the human race ; that he might satisfy the Divine jus-

tice ; that he might lay open the fountains of mercy ; and become the author of eternal salvation to those who were the special objects of his grace. By his sufferings and death, he unlocked the gates of paradise, and procured eternal life for us fallen creatures, and thus exalted the glory of thy Divine majesty and justice ; and restored light, joy, and hope to a benighted world. We bless thee, O Lord, for the unspeakable blessing of pardon and acceptance through Christ, that thou hast given to us, and that for his sake, thou hast promised to bestow every real blessing ; that there is nothing too great, or too good, for us to ask, or for thee, our God, to bestow, if we ask it in faith. May we, O Lord, who are lost and ruined by nature, not reject the means of salvation held out to us. But grant that, since thou hast given us thy gospel as a means to recover and save us, we may be enabled, by thy blessed Spirit, firmly to believe, and thoroughly to consider it. Do thou therefore, we beseech thee, remove all sinful prejudices from our minds, that so we may impartially weigh the evidences of the truth of it ; and do thou enable us to view them in such a clear and convincing light, as that they shall beget in us a firm and lively faith. Shew us the way of life more clearly, as it is pointed out to us in the gospel. Thou knowest our particular temptations ; help us by thy Holy Spirit to struggle against them ; and save us from being ashamed of thee and of our duty.

We are guilty, and have nothing to plead for ourselves but the blood of Jesus, that all-sufficient propitiation for the sins of those who believe in him. Thou who knowest all our weaknesses, save us from ourselves, and our own evil hearts. Re-

new us by thy Spirit, so as to walk as become those whom thou hast redeemed, through thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

May we have fellowship with Christ in his death; and feel the power of his resurrection, raising up our souls to newness of life. Viewing our salvation as complete in him, may we adhere to him, rely on him, and receive from him grace for grace. And remembering that they that are his, have crucified the flesh with its corrupt affections, may we daily mortify the deeds of the body, cultivate the fruits of the Spirit, and aspire in all things at having a conversation such as becometh the gospel of Christ. Dispel the native darkness of our minds, and discover to us the transcendent excellencies of the Divine nature, that our whole souls may be filled with the light and purity of thy holiness, and the endearments of thy grace; that, with the most joyful transport, we may say, Whom have we in heaven but thee, and there is none on the earth we desire beside thee. Fit us, by the sanctification of our natures, for the rest that remaineth for the people of God, where no false views shall any longer allure; no fallacious appearances shall betray; no insidious joy shall sting; and when the mists are dispelled, which hang over this state of existence; where we shall, with rapture and transport, behold the glory of thee our Lord, and the face of the Lamb, and drink of those rivers of pleasure that for ever flow from thy throne.

Whilst we pray for ourselves, we would also beseech thee, O Lord, to hear us on behalf of our fellow creatures. May the time soon come when all men shall know thee, the Lord, and worship thee in sincerity and truth. Be thou, O God, a

friend to our friends ; forgive our enemies, and enrich our benefactors with thy peculiar favour. Be with the sick and the sorrowful, and prepare the dying for their great change. Bless each of us in thy presence. May the Shepherd of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps, watch over our family and interests, during the silence of this night. When we awake in the morning, may we find thee at our right hand, and then we shall not be greatly moved. Hear and accept of us through the merits of our Redeemer, who is God over all, and blessed for ever. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O THOU who art the God of all the families of thy people, we would praise and magnify thy holy name, for thy preserving care and kindness exercised towards us who are now assembled around the family altar. Indebted to thee for our being, and for our continued well-being, we would ever esteem it, not only our duty, but our privilege, to give thanks at the remembrance of all the goodness and mercy which thou hast made to pass before us individually and collectively. We thank thee for thy watchful care throughout the silent hours of night,—for the rest enjoyed,—for the blessings of this morning. Bestow upon us the spirit of thy grace, that we may be in thy fear all the day long ;—that we may be kept from every evil, and from every wicked way ;—that we may fulfil all the duties that devolve upon us in our several spheres, so as to promote the honour and the glory of thy great name.

Feeling our own weakness and insufficiency to

do that which is pleasing in thy sight,—that it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps,—we would humbly pray thee to bestow upon us that wisdom which cometh from above: may we see light in thy light, and be strengthened with all might by thy Spirit in the inner man, that so all our thoughts, and words, and actions may be in accordance with thy holy will. May we pass the time of our sojourning here in fear, and spending this day and every day of our lives with a single eye to thy glory. May we possess the tempers and dispositions of thy children, and give evidence that we are all the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, by a living faith in his dear Son.

Lord, we acknowledge ourselves to be great sinners, bear witness to the sincerity of our hearts in the confession of our sins, and help us, by thy grace, to become true penitents, to mourn over those our heinous transgressions, and to return unto thee in the way of duty, and to betake ourselves to the blood of sprinkling for cleansing, and to the righteousness of Jesus Christ for justification, for we have nothing else to rely upon—we renounce our own righteousness, for indeed we have none. May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds continually in his love. May we have our fruit unto holiness;—and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit this day in our walk and conversation in the world.

May thy Spirit, dwelling in us richly, preserve us from the snares, the dangers, and the temptations of sin, Satan, and the world, to which we are every moment exposed;—and by thy grace may we keep our garments undefiled from the pollution that is in the world through lust. While engaged in the

various duties of the day, may we manifest a character becoming our reliance on thee, our God and Saviour; and give proof to one another, and to all with whom we come into contact,—that we have been with Jesus;—that we bear his image;—breathe his spirit;—and are following him with full purpose of heart. Strengthen us, O our God, for all the difficulties and trials of life, through which we may be called in the course of thy Providence to pass. May the thought that we are ever under thy paternal care, lead us to commit ourselves wholly unto thee the Lord, and to trust in thee, that thou wilt bring to pass that which is good concerning us.

Be merciful, O God, to those families who call not on thy name. Bring multitudes of such under the bond of the covenant by thy constraining love. Bless the whole household of faith, all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. May a spirit of love and unity be promoted and exhibited by all such. May the time be hastened on when men of every family, and tribe, and nation shall be brought into the fold of the Redeemer; and the whole earth sound forth the praises of him who hath opened up a way by which the ransomed of the Lord shall return to Zion, with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads.

We especially pray that thy blessing may descend upon us as a family; that we may become savingly interested in Christ, and in the blessings of his purchase; support our souls with the knowledge that thy sheep shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of thy hand.

May it be our blessed privilege, when thy purposes of mercy are finished with us here below, to have an entrance administered to us abundantly,



into thy everlasting kingdom of glory above, and to form part of thy great family unbroken in the skies.

Mercifully, O Lord, look with compassion on all the sons and daughters of affliction; rebuke them not in thy wrath, neither chasten them in thy displeasure. What they know not, teach thou them; what they feel oppressing them, enable them to bear; and what they have not, but which thou knowest to be needful for them, direct them to ask from thyself.

In his all-prevalent name as our Advocate and Intercessor before thy throne, we offer these our humble petitions; and we pray thee to do for us above what we can ask or think; and to thee, through him, we shall ascribe the praise. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL and unchangeable Jehovah! All perfections adorn thy nature, every attribute of majesty supports thy throne. The heavens are thine,—thou hast made them bright with thy glory; the earth also is thine,—thou art the Lord of universal nature.

We desire, O Lord, at this time to offer our humble adorations to thee, with the more exalted services of angels and archangels, and the myriads of blessed spirits who behold thy face in righteousness, and celebrate thy praises without interruption, and without end. We rejoice, O Lord, that though thou art the high and the lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, yet such is thine amazing condescension, that thou art willing to dwell with him who is of an humble and contrite spirit, and

who trembles at thy word. It is our unspeakable privilege that we have access unto thee, through Jesus Christ, the Son of thy love, and the all-sufficient Saviour of sinners. Through Him thou extendest mercy to the penitent, and the offers of pardon to the guilty; thou givest strength to the weak, comfort to those who mourn, direction to those who walk in thy ways, and thy Holy Spirit to them who humbly and sincerely implore his powerful assistance.

We desire penitently to acknowledge before thee, O most gracious God, our innumerable and aggravated transgressions; our pride and vanity of mind; our selfishness, and love of the world; our abuse of, and unthankfulness for many mercies; our fretfulness and impatience in seasons of disappointment and trouble; our neglect of duty and direct violations of thy holy law; our unbelief and hardness of heart; our slothfulness and lukewarmness in religion; the dishonour we have done to thee and to our Christian profession; and all the injustice of which we have been guilty towards our fellow-men. We lament, in thy presence, O most gracious God, the coldness of our love to thee; our inactivity in thy service; our backwardness to holy duties, and the little proficiency we have made in the Christian and Divine life, notwithstanding the eminent advantages which we enjoy; the light and directions of thy word, the perfect example of our blessed Saviour, our access to the throne of thy grace, the powerful aids of thy blessed Spirit, and the glorious hope of immortality set before us in the gospel. But, O most merciful Father, we entreat that thou wouldst not deal with us according to our deserts, but according to the multitude of thy tender mer-

cies in Christ Jesus. We bless thee for that rich provision of grace and glory which thou hast made for penitent sinners, in the righteousness, sacrifice, and intercession of Him who is the Advocate with the Father, and the propitiation for sin. Through him who was made sin for us, though he knew no sin, let us, who know no righteousness of our own, be accepted as righteous. We desire to rely on Him as the appointed Saviour, to submit to Him as our Lord, and to comply with the most gracious terms of pardon and salvation which are established in the New Covenant.

And the God of peace sanctify us wholly, begin and carry on that good work in our souls, renew us in the spirit of our minds, and make us in every thing such as thou wouldst have us to be. It is to thy grace that we owe all the good we have done, and it is to thy aid that we have escaped all the evils we have been tempted to. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto our strength or endeavours, but unto thy name be all the glory and praise of our deliverance and preservation. O never let the remembrance of this thy goodness towards us depart from our minds; but let it kindle in us such a grateful sense of thy loving-kindness and tender mercy, as more and more to unite us to love and obey thee, and to depend upon thee for every blessing of which we stand in need. Quicken and strengthen us, O Lord, by thy grace, that we may watch more carefully, resist more vigorously, and walk more circumspectly than we have hitherto done. Grant that from henceforth we may be more entirely devoted to thee, and serve thee without interruption. Do thou, O Lord, so confirm us by thy grace in our holy reso-

lutions, as that we may choose rather to suffer every evil than to offend thee any more. It is owing to thy free and undeserved goodness, that we, who were dead in trespasses and sin, are now alive ; that we, who were lost are found, and that we are translated into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. We acknowledge, O Lord, that all this is purely the effect of thy free grace, and to be entirely ascribed to thine all-powerful goodness. We beseech thee, O Lord, to perfect thine own work, that so the glory of it may for ever redound to thee, and that as we have been hitherto signal instances of thy goodness, so may we be happy instruments of thy praise to eternal ages. Be our God for ever and ever ; and our guide even unto death.

We desire, O Lord, humbly to intercede with thee in behalf of all who are ignorant of thee, and have never heard of thy name. Do thou give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession, that all the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. Let the house of Israel know assuredly, that thou hast made the same Jesus, whom their Fathers crucified, both Lord and Christ. Take the veil from their heart, and shew them his glory.

Comfort and relieve all that are in sorrow or affliction. Give unto them everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace.

We pray, that our friends and relations, and all whom we ought to remember in thy presence, may be among the number of those whom thou wilt bless, and whom thou wilt compass with thy favour, as with a shield.

Take us under thy Fatherly care and protec-

tion, and preserve us from sin. Watch over us this night for good, and grant that we may repose safely under thy protection; and may we awake in the morning with renewed vigour to do thy will, and keep thy commandments.

And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD God of hosts, unto thee all flesh shall come. We bless thee that we have access to thee at all times, and under all circumstances, by that way which Christ has opened up by his death; that we can draw near to thee, in the times of prosperity and health, to ask thy blessing upon our increase, and thy direction how we should apply it; and that in the times of adversity and sickness we can solicit thy supporting hand, and the sympathy of our great Redeemer. Our earnest prayer with thy servant of old is, Make us not too poor, lest we should put forth our hand to steal; neither make us too rich, lest we should forget thee. We would ever desire to feel that we are thy dependent creatures; dependent on thee for life and health, for food and raiment. O Lord, it is from thee that every good and perfect gift cometh down. Make our hearts rejoice with gratitude for all thy mercies towards us. We confess we are unworthy of the least of them, yet thou art bestowing them upon us in rich abundance. O Lord, what is man, that thou art so mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou shouldst visit him!

We thank thee, O Lord, for having once more, in thine infinite mercy, brought us to see the light of another day, in health of body and soundness

of mind. Make us truly thankful for all thy goodness to us. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice over us. Thou art good unto all thy creatures ; and thy mercy is over all thy works. We rejoice that thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear thee, and thy righteousness unto children's children, to such as keep thy covenant, and to those who remember thy commandments, to do them.

We bless thee, O Lord, that we are justified by the perfect righteousness of Christ being imputed to us ; and pray, that thou wouldst sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit. Make our hearts fit temples for the Holy Ghost ; and grant that by his perfecting in us the work which he hath begun, we may at last be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. O that our affections were weaned more from the present world, and more intensely fixed on that which is to come. May we ever remember, that we are candidates for immortality and heaven ; and that we are the possessors of an immortal soul, which must either exist in unmingled joy and bliss, or in an endless eternity of misery and woe. Teach us, gracious God, to live in the light of eternity, and to view and test all things by that light.

Bless us, O Lord, suppliants at thy footstool. We need thy paternal blessing. Lift up on us this day the light of thy countenance ; and give us peace. Make us ever to look up to thee as our God, reconciled in Christ Jesus, and to exclaim, with feelings of filial affection, Abba Father ! Make us to possess more of the spirit of Christ, to exemplify more of his character, and imbibe more of his doctrine. May we never rest con-

tented with our present attainments in divine knowledge, but increase daily in that wisdom which cometh from above, until we shall have comprehended, with all saints, what is the breadth and length, and depth and height, and to know the love of God, which passeth knowledge. May we ever run in the Christian course, like the great apostle of the Gentiles, turning neither to the right hand nor to the left, but forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, press towards the mark for the prize of the high-calling of God in Christ Jesus. And having so run, may we all at last, be accounted worthy to receive the prize. May the great and glorious reward of everlasting life tend to make us run with greater earnestness, and prompt us to more active duty. May the prospect of receiving an eternal crown sustain us in the course, bearing always in mind that it is through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom to which that crown will entitle us. O Lord, we would also beseech thee, whilst we are supplicating for ourselves, that thou wouldst hear us on behalf of our fellow creatures. May the time soon come when all men shall know thee, from the least even to the greatest, and worship thee, the Lord, in sincerity and truth. O be thou a God to our friends, and do thou bless and forgive our enemies, and enrich all with thy peculiar favour.

Bless the whole household of faith. May grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto them abundantly. May they rejoice in thee, the God and Rock of their salvation.

Be very merciful to the sick and the dying. Comfort, enrich, and support their souls. Make

thy grace sufficient for them; and perfect thy strength, in their weakness. Bless the aged of thy people. May their last days be their best days. And while their outward man is decaying day by day, may their inward man increase in spiritual strength.

Have mercy, O Lord God, upon a world lying in wickedness. Have mercy on those who have no mercy on themselves. Lead them to thyself, the source of light, and life, and joy, and peace.

Be with us this day, and grant that whatever we do, may be done to thy glory. May we set a watch on our lips, that we commit no sin; and be vigilant over our hearts, remembering that out of them are the issues of life. We ask every mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, who art unchangeably holy and blessed, thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, —among the Gods there is none like unto thee; neither are there any works like unto thy works. Thy works, O God, are immense, full of wonder, demanding everlasting praise. Thou callest the things that are not, as if they were. Thou saidst at the beginning, let there be Light, and there was light; thou saidst, and it was done; thou commandedst, and it stood fast. At thy voice, O Lord God omnipotent, the earth quakes, the pillars of heaven tremble, the rocks melt like wax, the sea is dried up, and the foundations of the hills are moved. Thou gatherest the wind in thy hand; thou bindest the waters in a garment; thou hast established all the ends of the earth; thou preventest



the floods from overflowing ; and the thing that is hid, thou bringest forth to light. The eyes of thee, our God, are upon the ways of man, and thou seest all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

We acknowledge, O Lord, thy great and daily goodness to us, and our own absolute unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. Though we have sinned, yet we rejoice that we have an Advocate with thee, Jesus Christ the righteous ; and that he is the propitiation for our sins. In his name we are encouraged to come unto thee, and to seek the blessings he has purchased for us by his own blood.

With holy awe, and wonder, and astonishment, we desire to contemplate all the manifestations of thy glorious perfections, in thy works of creation and providence. But above all, with our souls, and all that is within us, we would bless thee for Jesus Christ, thine unspeakable gift. We thank thee, O Lord, that from eternity thy delights were with the children of men. We thank thee, that, when the fulness of time was come, thou didst send forth thy Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. We thank thee for that great mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh. We thank thee for his exemplary life, his heavenly doctrines, his expiatory sufferings, his glorious resurrection, his triumphant ascension. We thank thee for all those benefits which are the fruits of his obedience and death. Mercifully accept of our humble thanks for all the blessings which thou hast bestowed upon us. Grant that we may im-

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prove our manifold advantages to the good of our souls, and to the glory of thy name.

O Holy Spirit of God, who art the only author of all spiritual life, quicken us by thy power, and preserve and strengthen us in the life which is thy gift. Forgive us, who have so often grieved thee; and preserve us from grieving thee again; so that thou wilt not depart from us for ever. Teach us to remember, that every day which we spend carelessly, and unprofitably, we are grieving thee, and tempting thee to leave us. Mayest thou lead us in the right paths; and quicken us to a lively sense of our own sins and unworthiness; and to a lively perception of the infinite obligations we are under to love thee our God.

Thou hast promised to receive returning sinners, to blot out their iniquities, and to heal their backslidings. We desire, O Lord, to return unto thee, and to hate, and to renounce all our sins. Cast us not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from us;—but restrain us by thy grace from all presumptuous sins; and suffer them not to have dominion over us. We are monuments of thy goodness; we are living instances of thy mercy; for thou hast quickened us who were dead in trespasses and sins, and who had long ago perished in our iniquities, hadst thou not been infinitely patient and long-suffering. We had forfeited every claim to thy favour, and thou mightest justly have cut us off, and given us our portion with hypocrites; and, when we remember all this, we cannot but admire thy forbearance towards us. We beseech thee to inspire us with such clear and lively apprehensions of thy perfections and glory, and of thy love and boundless benevolence to all thy creatures, as may

every day more and more raise and improve our love to thee; that this, being the great spring and principle of all our actions, may continually excite us to a cheerful obedience to thy will, and a vigorous imitation of thy perfections. We, O Lord, feel our own inability to act as we ought:— we feel that our own strength is weakness. O teach us how to be strong in thee, and in the power of thy Spirit. In every part of our Christian warfare, support us by the assurance, that if thou art for us, none can be against us, so as to hurt us; yea, that all things shall work together for our good. Never allow us to depart from thee, by making flesh our arm, or any created thing our portion.

With regard to the world, may our souls be even as a weaned child, and may we draw near unto thee as our exceeding joy; and contemplate with ardent desire the period when we shall behold thy face in righteousness, when we shall awake up after thy likeness, and be satisfied with thy favour.

Do thou, O Lord, bless the means that are employed in our native land for winning souls unto thee. May all who are sincerely desirous to promote the interest of the Messiah's kingdom, of whatever sect or denomination they may be, see the pleasure of thee, the Lord, prospering in their hands. O send the light of thy gospel to those who sit in darkness; and thy saving health to all nations. May the Jews see that Messiah, the Prince, has already come; and that it is vain in them to look for another. May the Heathen see the vanity of idols; and turn to thee, the only living and true God. For this end, do thou support, enlighten, and bless thy servants, the mis-

sionaries in foreign parts. May they give their whole souls to their work ; and may success still animate them. Thou, O Lord, knowest the many trials and difficulties they have to encounter ; do thou, therefore, furnish them with all the weapons of their warfare—may they triumph through thy grace over all the opposition suggested by the destroyer of souls ; eradicating superstition, dispelling ignorance, and displacing error, prepare a good soil for the heavenly seed. Without thy assistance and direction, O Lord, we know, that their exertions must be unavailing and useless—we therefore implore of thee to suggest, direct, and overrule all their actions ; and prepare the minds of their hearers for receiving the truth.

We thank thee for the mercies of this day ; we commend ourselves, and our dear relations, to thy protection this night, praying thee to look down in an especial manner upon the afflicted. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish ; but thou remainest ; and they all shall wax old, as doth a garment ; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed ; but thou art the same, and thy years fail not. Thou art from everlasting to everlasting, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

For who in the heavens can be compared unto

the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto our God? Thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of thy saints, and to be had in reverence of all that are about thee. O Lord God of Hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee, or thy faithfulness round about thee?

Thou didst create man in thine own image—pure, holy, happy, and upright. Thou didst place him in the garden of Eden, to till and dress it, happy in thy love, and in his own innocence. He held immediate converse with thee; and earth was but a model of heaven. Sin had neither blighted its flowers nor cursed its soil. Then there was no Mediator between God and man; but man saw thee face to face, and in him thou didst behold the reflection and image of God. The bosom of man then swelled with no emotions save those of joy and peace, and gratitude and love. But he soon disobeyed thy command, and immediately reaped the bitter fruits of his disobedience, being thrust out of Eden, a sinner and a sufferer. But when the sword of thy justice was unsheathed, ready to do its strange work, there was heard the cry, Save from going down to the pit, for I have found out a ransom. Then man could not approach thee, but through a Mediator, and that Mediator thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son. Then sin removed man to an infinite distance from thee, but thou hast again brought him nigh by the blood of the cross. Thanks be to thy name, that thou not only pardonest the returning and penitent sinner, but, for Christ's sake, treatest him as if he had never sinned. O Lord, who can fathom thine unspeakable love to perishing men! Soon make every heart the recipient of that love, and the partaker of its blessings. O that

men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men !

We pray, O Lord, that thou wouldst bless thine own cause in the world. May it ever accomplish that which thou pleasest, and prosper in the end to which thou hast sent it. Bless all those who make it known ; may they feel it both an honour and privilege to lead others to that Saviour by whose blood they have been cleansed, and in whose favour and love they rejoice. We pray, that thou wouldst especially bless those of thy servants who have forsaken all the comforts and endearments of civilized and christian society, and have gone forth as heralds of the cross to the perishing and benighted heathen. May they feel that they are obeying thy command, to go and preach the gospel to every creature ; and may they experience the fulfilment of thy promise, that thou art with them alway, even unto the end of the world. May that promise dispel all their sorrows.

Bless the people who are called by thy name, with all spiritual blessings, in Christ Jesus.

May those in affliction feel thy dispensations towards them, sanctifying and purifying. May they ever remember, that thou hast some great and wise lesson to teach them by afflicting them ; and may they be humble, and learn it. And grant that the dying may shew to those around them that religion is indeed a living and a vital principle, having its seat in the heart ; that it is it alone that can make the soul meet death with calmness and composure, and dispel the gloom of the dark valley of the shadow of death ; and by these means may such be led to fear thee, and to pray that they may die the death of the righteous, and that their latter end may be like his.

May we be under thy guidance and teaching this day. Deliver us, O Lord, from every snare and temptation, and make us to walk in thy ways. Forgive us all our sins, and accept of us in Christ. Amen.

## THURSDAY EVENING.

BLESS the Lord, O our souls. O Lord, our God, thou art very great ; thou art clothed with honour and majesty ; thou coverest thyself with light, as with a garment ; thou stretchest out the heavens like a curtain ; thou layest the beams of thy chambers in the waters ; thou makest the clouds thy chariot ; thou walkest upon the wings of the wind ; thou makest thine angels spirits, thy ministers a flame of fire ; thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. O Lord, how manifold are thy works ! in wisdom hast thou made them all : the earth is full of thy riches ; the glory of thee, the Lord, shall endure for ever ; the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

We confess that the mightiest structures of human art, wealth, and power, are soon defaced, and sink into dust ; but the works of God shine in unchanging beauty and glory ; for they are the care of him who upholds all things by the word of his power. In thy sight, O God, the nations are as a drop of the bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance ; thou takest up the isles as a very little thing. All thy works praise thee, O Lord ; and thy glorious perfections are engraven in shining characters on every part of thy vast creation. Thou alone art worthy of adoration and praise ; for thy mercy endureth for ever.

We, O God, acknowledge it to be an unspeakable favour, and an inestimable privilege, that we are not only permitted, but invited and encouraged to draw near to thee, and to make our wants known to thee in prayer. Thou hast appointed us a great high Priest, in whose name we may come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in every time of need. Convince us of our guilt and unworthiness, and of our utter inability to come unto thee, but by Jesus Christ. Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast made known to us, thine erring and sinful creatures, the path of peace, of safety, and of life. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Much more than being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath, through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

It therefore deeply concerns us, O God, to consider what suitable returns we can possibly make to thee for this thine unspeakable goodness to the sons of men. But what returns shall we, the creatures of a day, compassed with infirmity, and sin, make to thee? Alas! all that we are, and have, and can do, falls infinitely short of thy surpassing favours. Yet, O most merciful God, so great is



thy goodness, that thou wilt accept of our sincere though imperfect services through Christ. We will, therefore, give thee our hearts, and we will give them without reserve, freely, willingly, and for ever. And from our hearts we do, and will continually offer up unto thee, devout adorations and thanksgivings. We will continually give thee thanks, for what thou hast done ; thy praise shall ever be in our mouths. To thee will we ascribe blessing, and honour, and glory ; to thee, that didst visit man in his low estate, that didst contrive a way for his redemption, and didst provide an invaluable ransom for him, that didst rescue him from slavery and misery, and didst restore him to his forfeited bliss ;—to thee, that sittest upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever. O let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord ; for his mercy endureth for ever.

O holy, and most merciful Jesus ! never did love burn in any breast with such vehemence and generosity as in thine,—never did love discover itself in such glorious effects, as thine hast done,—never was there love so pure, so disinterested, never did love undergo such things, for the sake of the most beloved object, as thou didst suffer and undergo for sinners.

O thy love unfeigned, and without dissimulation, singular and without example, great beyond measure, and beyond comprehension, even to astonishment and surprise ! O may we ever dwell in the contemplation of this thy love ; and by its mighty energy be so perfectly disengaged from all other objects, as to become united unto thee, and transformed into thy likeness ! But, alas ! how has the love of this world seized upon, and taken

possession of our hearts, and how little room is there left for thy love to enter !

O, our strength and our Redeemer, interpose, we beseech thee, by the exceeding power of thy grace, and disunite our desires from self ; empty our hearts of all impure and sinful loves, of all earthly and carnal affections, of all inordinate propensities to the things of this world, that being full of thy love, we may love thee with our whole heart, and with all the powers and faculties of our souls, that there may no longer exist in them the love and power of sin ; but that they may be wholly subdued.

O beloved Saviour, since thou hast procured so great and excellent privileges and blessings for us, we acknowledge it to be our indispensable duty, not only to be thankful for them, and highly to prize and value them, but also constantly to aspire after the participation of them. O fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. Arm us against every temptation, uphold us in our integrity, keep us in the way of our duty ; and grant that we may be in thy fear every day, and all the day long. May the advantages which we enjoy, in having the gospel of Christ, soon be enjoyed by all the inhabitants of the world.

We feel, O God, grateful to thee for the mercies of this day. We commend ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thy protecting care during the silent watches of the night. Prepare the dying for death ; comfort those who mourn the loss of departed friends. Be thou the father of the fatherless ; the judge of the widow ; the orphan's stay ; and the stranger's shield. Guide us by thy counsel while we live ; and at last receive us into glory. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, thou hast been the dwelling place of thy people, in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

We rejoice that we are invited to draw near unto thee, to seek that we may find, and to ask that we may receive. And we likewise rejoice to know, that we do not weary thee ; but that thou art ever well pleased to listen to our prayers, if presented to thee in sincerity in the name of Christ. We would ever come to thee in his all-prevailing name, making mention of his righteousness, even of his only. We offer thee our heartfelt thanks, O Lord, for thy protecting care during the past night ; and for our being again permitted to kneel at the throne of prayer on the morning of a new day, to supplicate thy mercy and forgiveness.

We bless thee, O Lord, that thou didst so think on us, when in our lost and ruined condition, as to deliver up thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We adore and magnify thy holy name, that thou didst take us from the paths of folly, sin, and shame, and set our feet in the way of thy commandments. We bless thee, that when we were wandering far from thee, seeking happiness where it was not to be found,—in the pleasures and joys of earth, which only mocked our grasp,—thou didst, out of thine infinite mercy, lead us to thyself ; and saidst to our

trembling and almost despairing souls, Be of good cheer, thy sins are all forgiven. How precious was our Saviour then, and how blessed we felt when our sins were borne away, as we came in sight of the cross ! But, O Lord, what unprofitable servants have we been ! Thou hast died for us, and greater love hath none than to lay down his life for his friend ;—but thou didst die for thine enemies. And what have we done for thee in return ? After all, we must confess that we have been indeed unprofitable servants. Make us, O Lord, more devoted to thy service, more alive to the requirements of the law of Christ, and more anxious for the salvation of sinners. O write thy law upon our hearts ; and may thy word be our constant study.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the Scriptures which announce the good news of salvation through Christ. They have been preserved uncorrupted, and handed down to us, and we possess them in a tongue which we can both read and understand. Thanks be to thy name for this expression of thy love to our land. We feel how miserable and lost we would have been without them : we would be ignorant of the origin of our being, and of thee, our Creator, and would have been, as the heathen are, reasoning up to some great Spirit, but knowing neither his name, nor character. Without the sacred Scriptures, we would have been ignorant of our Saviour's finished work, wandering in the paths of sin, without God, and without hope. But we adore thee, that thou hast blessed us with that word, which reveals thee as the Creator of the heavens and of the earth,—the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being ; and which makes known Christ, who is the way, the

truth, and the life. Soon may all nations and tongues possess thy word ; and then in its light they shall see light.

Have mercy, we implore thee, on those who have no mercy on themselves. Do not cut them off from the place of hope in their wickedness, but do thou still extend thy long-suffering compassion towards them, and incline their hearts to seek thee while thou art continuing to be gracious. May they feel that the way of transgressors is hard, and may they, with full purpose of heart, turn unto thee from whom they have strayed, and observe all thy commandments, in the keeping of which there is great reward. Soon may all those who are dead in trespasses and sin be quickened and made alive by thy Spirit. O Lord, do thou bless the means that are being used for the accomplishing of this end : and may all the obstacles which have hitherto proved barriers in the way of evangelizing the world be removed, and, ere long, may the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing under his wings, and diffuse his life-giving rays upon all people and lands.

Bless each of us before thee. Adapt thy grace, we earnestly beseech thee, to our manifold wants and necessities. Breathe upon our souls the healthful influences of thy grace ; and may they abound and rejoice in thee. Bless all for whom it is our duty and privilege to remember at thy throne. Mercifully be with us this day. May we never forget that we are thine ; and may we ever desire to live to thy glory, both here and hereafter. We ask every mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

OUR FATHER which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Enable us to draw near to thee with true hearts, and to worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. O Lord, thou hast searched us, and known us. Thou knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising; thou understandest our thoughts afar off. Thou, O Lord, art present throughout all thy works. Thy majesty can be traced in the lofty mountain, and thy rule in the swelling deep; thy care can be discerned in the humblest plant, and the meanest insect; and we behold thy justice manifested in the torments of devils and wicked men. Thy will is the law of the universe, and thy word is the light of life. Do thou enable us to praise thee with uprightness of heart; when we shall have learned thy righteous judgments, we will keep thy statutes. O forsake us not utterly. We beseech thee, O Lord, to open thine ears of mercy to us, who are unfit and unworthy to approach thee. Thou knowest the weakness of our nature, and how unable we are without thy grace to love and serve thee. O may we be pardoned, accepted, and saved, for the Redeemer's sake. May he be indeed our wisdom, our righteousness, our only foundation, our all sufficient plea. May he be precious to our souls, be all our salvation, and all our desire. Let that infinite love of Christ in dying for us, kindle in us the sacred fire of love to him again. O Lord, strengthen our faith, that nothing may be ever able to shake our integrity; but notwithstanding all the allurements and temptations of this world, we may continue steadfast and immoveable, always

abounding in the work of the Lord. We pray, O Lord, that thou wouldst enable us to make it our constant aim to glorify thee by obedience to thy laws, by submission to thy will, by observing thine ordinances, by acknowledging thee in all our ways, and by labouring to diffuse around us wisdom, purity, and peace. Let our faith guide us to the eye that never slumbers, and to the mercy that endureth for ever.

Have mercy, O Lord, on all those who are in ignorance of the great truths of the gospel, do thou instruct them. Have mercy on all who are broken in heart, do thou heal them ; on all who are struggling with temptation, do thou rescue them ; on all who are languishing in spiritual desertion, do thou revive them ; on all who are weak in faith, do thou establish them ; on all who are fallen from thee, the only true source of life and happiness, do thou raise them ; on all who are weary, and heavy laden, on account of their sins, do thou grant them rest to their souls.

Do thou, O blessed Jesus, who didst shed thy blood to save the souls of men, send forth the Holy Spirit to quicken and to heal us. Without thee, nothing is strong, nothing is holy ; without thine assisting and preventing grace, we are but as dust before the wind, carried to and fro, and easily driven away, by every slight temptation. Give thy enlightening grace to those that are in darkness, and thy converting grace to those that are in sin ; and grant that all such as have erred, and are deceived, may be brought into the way of truth and holiness, that so their souls may be saved in the great day of the Lord.

Thou art our king, do thou reign absolute in our hearts, and do thou subdue and expel all our

rebellious passions. Do thou quench in us all impurity; and kindle in us the bright fire of thy love. Thou art our Redeemer, do thou break down and root out the spirit of pride that exists in our hearts, and impart to us, in much mercy, the treasure of thine own unexampled humility, and wonderful condescension. Thou art our most merciful and indulgent Father, O grant us, thine own children, those best of gifts,—a firm and right faith, a stedfast and well-grounded hope, and a never-failing charity. Grant us grace to have continually before our eyes, and with a holy fear, the hour of our death, which is so uncertain,—the rigour of thy judgment, which is so terrible,—the shortness of our life, which, alas! we have so unprofitably spent,—and the infinite and eternal punishments which shall be inflicted on the wicked. Let thy grace arise in us, in such degrees, as may be for thy glory, and our eternal good. Give us grace to consecrate the rest of our lives to thy service, and to redeem the time, because the days are evil. Be with us in our going out and in our coming in; and preserve us in all our ways; may we be in the fear of the Lord all the day long.

O Lord, whilst we thus entreat of thee for mercy to pardon, and grace to help us in every time of need, we would also beseech thee to inspire us with greater zeal in promoting the interests of the Messiah's kingdom. Lord, do thou bless the labourers in thy vineyard, both at home and abroad. Grant that their efforts, in dependence on thy counsel and assistance, to advance the kingdom of grace, may be successful; and that the time may soon come when the heathen shall become the heritage of the Redeemer, and



the praises of the Lamb shall resound throughout the whole earth.

We recommend to thy tender compassion, the sick and the afflicted, Visit them with the riches and consolations of thy grace and Spirit. O Lord, draw near in mercy, as a reconciled God and Father in Christ, to those who are drawing near the gates of death.

We thank thee for the care which thou hast exercised over us throughout the past day. Preserve us from all evil during the silent watches of this night; and, if it be thy will, bring us to the light and comfort of another day, and enable us to spend it in thy fear.

And do thou hear and accept of us, for the sake of Christ, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.

### SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD, thou art a great God, and a Saviour, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders. Thou doest thy will in the armies of heaven, and amongst the children of men, none can stay thy hand from working, or call in question the rectitude of thy procedure. All, O God, bow before thee, and confess, that thou, Lord, doest all things well.

We bless thee for the faculties of body and mind which we enjoy. We thank thee, that thou hast again refreshed them by sleep, and hast awaked us in vigour and strength, for performing the duties of another day. We thank thee for the temporal mercies, which thou hast provided for us. Give us each day our daily bread. And grant, we earnestly beseech thee, that as thou art

nourishing our bodies with temporal food, thou wouldst so nourish our souls with that bread of life, which cometh down from heaven, of the which, if a man eat, he shall never die. Satisfy our longing souls, O Lord, for our souls pant after thee, the living God, as the hart panteth after the water-brooks.

Thou hast made known to us in thy word, that thou art a Spirit, and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Enable us so to worship thee. Save us from formality in our services, we earnestly entreat thee. We confess, O Lord, that it is an easy thing to offer thee the words of prayer; but a difficult thing to lay on thine altar the spirit of prayer. Lord teach us by thy Holy Spirit, how to pray,—to pray in faith. Strengthen our faith, we beseech thee, and deepen our impressions of sacred things. Enable us when we open thy word to open it with reverence, and as we read solemnly thy commands to us, may we purpose, relying on thy grace, to obey them more diligently and carefully. May we ever ponder with delight over the marvellous work of the Saviour's love; and as we meditate upon it, may our love become more ardent to that Saviour, who left his Father's throne, amid the glories and praises of heaven; concealed his Divinity in the garb of humanity, tabernacled here a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and died at last, to take away our sins, the shameful and ignominious death of the cross. O the matchless love of Christ! What are we, O Lord, or what were our fathers, that thou shouldst have been so mindful of us? And yet it is with deep contrition of heart, that we confess, that we have long slighted that love, and by our rebellion, and ingratitude testified,

that we did not desire it in our hearts, or that it should exercise its sway over our thoughts, words, and actions. But blessed be thy name, thou hast not punished us as our ingratitude merited,—but hast removed our rebellion, and hast, for Christ's sake, forgiven all our backslidings and sins. And blessed, ever blessed, be thy name, that thy ways are not as our ways, nor thy thoughts as our thoughts, else we would, long ere this, have been cut off from the land of the living, and have had our portion assigned us in that place where thy mercy is clean gone, and where thou hast for ever forgotten to be gracious.

We would remember before thee, O Lord, the sick and the afflicted. Be very gracious to them we earnestly entreat of thee. Grant them patience and resignation to thy will, so that they may bow submissively beneath thy rod, ever sensible that it is wielded by a Father who chasteneth because he loveth. May they be saved from murmuring and repining under the dispensations of thy providence. And, though these dispensations may oftentimes seem dark and mysterious to them, let them ever remember that thou makest all things work together for good to them that love thee, to them who are the called according to thy purpose. And do thou be very merciful, we pray thee, to those who are mourning the departure of dear relatives and friends. May the bereaved heart be directed to him who wept at the grave of Lazarus, who, though he has taken his seat at thy right-hand, still bends on earth a brother's eye, and who, from his being partaker of our nature, is able to sympathize with them, and to pour consolation into their broken and bleeding hearts. Grant a greater measure of faith and

hope to the dying. May they, in their struggle with the last enemy, come off more than conquerors, through him that loved them, and gave himself for them.

We solicit thy blessing to be upon us, as we are now about to engage in the duties of another day. Enable us ever to keep in mind, in all our transactions and dealings with the world, that thou God seest us, and may all we do, or think, or say, be to thy glory and praise for Christ's sake, to whom, with thee, the Father, and blessed Spirit, we would ascribe all glory, and honour, and blessing, for ever and ever. Amen.

### SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Of old thou hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thy hands: they shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

By thy power, kingdoms are broken in pieces, armies are scattered like the chaff, and the glory of ages passes away like the vapour. No concern is too vast to engross omnipotence—none is too insignificant to escape the eye of omniscience. Thou art guiding every movement of the universe, however distant and however opposite, to the glory of thy name. Thy goodness spreads over worlds, and creatures innumerable.

Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God: therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. O continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

We come before thee at this time, trusting in thy gracious word, on which thou hast caused us to hope, pleading those precious promises, which, in Jesus Christ, are all yea and amen; entreating thee to have mercy upon us, notwithstanding the offences we have committed; and casting all our care upon thee, as upon one who is full of compassion, and who careth for us.

We bless thee, O Lord, for thy tender concern for our happiness, illustriously displayed in the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom thou didst send into the world, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. May this bright display of thy good will to man, remove all suspicion of thy goodness, and all the jealousies of our mistrustful and unbelieving minds. May we embrace thy favour, and comply with the designs of thy mercy. Give us grace to believe on Christ, and rely on Him for every blessing of which we stand in need. Impress us with the truth, that it is through Him we derive all that we possess or may ever hope to enjoy.

O God, in the multitude of thy mercy, hear us. In thy salvation, draw nigh unto our souls, and redeem them. We are poor and needy; make haste unto us, O God. Thou art our help, and

our deliverer. We are troubled. We are bowed down greatly. We go mourning all the day long on account of our sins. Lord, all our desires are before thee, and our groaning is not hid from thee. Forsake us not, O Lord. O our God, be not far from us. Make haste to help us, O Lord, our salvation.

Lord, may we be so crucified with Christ, as that the life we now live in the flesh, may be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us ; and so to bear about with us continually the dying of the Lord Jesus, as that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal bodies.

Possess us with such a lively and affecting sense of the worth of our souls ; of that eternity we must enter upon after death ; of the folly, wickedness, and dreadful consequences of dying while pursuing a wicked course of life ; and of the shortness and uncertainty of our abode here, that we may give the more earnest heed to our spiritual and eternal interests. Lord, give us true repentance, and living faith. Enlighten our understandings to perceive more clearly the nature and glory of the gospel, and more fully to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Teach us to count all things but loss, that we may win Christ, and partake of his salvation. Deliver us from sin ; from that hardness of heart which can be melted only by thy judgments, when the time of mercy is past.

O blessed Saviour, who didst warn thy disciples to watch and pray, lest they should enter into temptation, grant us the help of thy Holy Spirit, to do those things which thou commandest us. O give us grace, that we may die to sin, and live

unto righteousness. May we live by the faith of the Son of God ; and die in the faith. In all our duties, may we look to him for aid, regard him as our pattern, and rely on him for acceptance ; in all the changing scenes of life, may we rest in the constancy of his mercy ; and when we walk through the dark valley of the shadow of death, may we lean on his staff, walk in his light, and wait for his salvation. Amid the perplexities of life, may we look to him who can guide us through the thickest darkness ; and who can make a way in the wilderness, and a path in the desert. May the Lord guide us continually.

Enlarge the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom, that thy ways be known on earth, and thy saving health among all nations.

To thy tender compassion we commend the sick and the afflicted, the destitute, the tempted, the sorrowful, and the dying. Accommodate the supplies of thy grace to the necessities of all thy children ; and whatever be their outward circumstances, let the heart of every one rejoice that seeks the Lord. Bless our relations and friends, and all in whom we are interested. May the Lord himself be their God, and may he cause his face continually to shine upon them.

We desire, O Lord, to thank thee for the mercies of the past day ; we implore thy gracious protection during the dark and silent watches of the night. O thou Keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest, nor sleepest, be thou about our path and about our bed.

Spare us to see the light of another day of the Son of Man. Prepare us for the exercises of thy day, and of thy house. May we be in the Spirit on thy day. May we rejoice when it is said to us,

Let us go up to the house of the Lord. Let thy special blessing be upon thy ministering servants ; strengthen their hands ; encourage their hearts ; and grant that their labours may be abundantly blessed for the conversion of sinners, and for the edification and comfort of thy people. May we receive the instructions and admonitions of thy word, with the docility of children ; all the doctrines of the gospel, with the assurance of faith ; and all its commands, with the obedience of love. Listen, O Lord, to the voice of these our humble supplications, and grant us an answer in peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.



### Third Week.

#### SABBATH MORNING.

O MOST blessed, and most gracious God! We approach into thy presence with the most profound reverence, and the deepest sense of our own unworthiness. Thou, O Lord, art seated in glory, into which no mortal eye can penetrate, and unto which no unclean thing can approach. We feel, that in thy sight, we are as nothing, yea, less than nothing and vanity. We feel, O Lord, that we cannot glorify thee as we ought, nor praise thee as thy holy angels, who excel in strength, nor as the spirits of just men made perfect before thy throne. Yet thou art graciously pleased to receive the services of thy unworthy creatures, and declarest in thy ever blessed word, that whoso offereth praise, glorifieth thee.

We adore thee, O Lord, for the bounties of thy Providence, and the rich blessings of thy grace. We are thy creatures: thy hands have made and fashioned us: thou art the Father of our spirits, and the former of our bodies.

O help us to worship and serve thee, the Lord, our Maker. May all those powers, by which thou hast distinguished us from the rest of thy creatures, be devoted to thy service, and employed for thine honour. We bless thee for thy tender care of us in the helpless state of infancy and childhood, and for the constant attendance of thy Providence ever since. Thou hast fed and led us all our life long, and redeemed us from evil. Thou

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hast kept us as the apple of thine eye, and hid us under the shadow of thy wings. O that we were enabled, by thy grace, to devote that life which thou at first didst give, and which thou constantly upholdest, unreservedly to thee. But, O Lord, while we thus recount and reflect on the numberless blessings which thou hast bestowed upon us, how shall we confess before thee our unworthiness and ingratitude? By nature, we are the children of wrath, and are therefore under sentence of condemnation; and alas! O Lord, we have nothing to plead in extenuation of our guilt. But O for ever praised be thy name, that thou hast not left us in the deplorable state into which, by our sins, we had fallen; but that, in thine abundant goodness, thou didst devise a scheme, by which mercy and truth are met together,—by which righteousness and peace have kissed each other;—that such was thy compassion for fallen man, that thou didst send even thine only begotten Son into the world, to assume our nature, and in that nature which had sinned, to work out a perfect righteousness, and to accomplish a perfect redemption for us. We will for ever bless and magnify thy name, O Lord, that we can now come before thee pleading not only deliverance from condemnation on account of sin, but a right to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Saviour.

We bless thee, O most gracious Father, that thou art now, by thy word, and the ordinances of the gospel, proclaiming thyself to be in Christ, reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto men their trespasses. O give us grace to incline us to listen to the joyful sound of peace being proclaimed on earth, and good will to the children of men. O give us that faith which ac-

cepts and relies on Christ as our great Saviour, —the remedy offered unto us by thee for the pardon of our sins. Form, we beseech thee, a real and vital union between him and our souls. We plead, O Lord, with confidence for this grace of faith, seeing thou hast not only allowed us, but commanded us to believe in the name of thy dear Son. Give us, then, faith in thy promises, unmingled with any doubt of thy truth, or any distrust of thy power to save us ; and being grounded and settled in the faith, may we be filled with everlasting consolation, and good hope, through grace. Help us, we humbly beseech thee, to live a life of hope in thee, expecting that thou wilt be our sun and shield ; that thou wilt give grace and glory to us, and wilt withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly.

Enable us, we entreat thee, to lead a life of love to thee our God ; for love is the fulfilling of the law ; and we know that he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. O shed abroad thy love in our hearts, as the animating and delightful principle of all our holy obedience.

May the graces of faith, hope, and love be wrought in all our hearts by the operation of thy Spirit ; and in the active exercise of these graces, may the whole of our lives be spent.

Let thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, ever richly dwell in us, and by his divine influences may we mortify the body of sin, and walk as the children of God, who are joint-heirs with Christ. Being dead to sin, but alive to thee, may we walk no longer after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Deliver us from the spirit of bondage, and give us the spirit of adoption, whereby we may cry, Abba, Father.

We bless thee, that thou hast favoured us with

seeing the light of this holy Sabbath, and that we have been taught from our earliest youth, to consecrate that blessed day unto thee, and to the things which belong to our eternal peace. We desire to welcome the return of the Lord's day, on which the brightest scene of glory was displayed, that men or angels ever beheld, when our triumphant Redeemer burst the barriers of the tomb, because it was not possible, that the Lord of life should be holden by the power of death. Enable us so to sanctify this day, that it may be rendered the means of our advancement in faith, hope, love, and holiness.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the ordinances of the gospel. We bless thee, that these ordinances are regularly administered among us, and that, under the guidance of thy Spirit, we have the means of attaining, through the Scriptures, that wisdom which maketh wise unto salvation.

Give to all the ministers of the gospel the gifts and graces of thy Spirit, and enable them faithfully, and in simplicity to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. May they come forth in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace; and while they preach Christ and his salvation to others, may they feel his love in their own souls. May thy word drop as the rain, and distil as the dew upon thy people. May sinners be converted unto thee, and thy saints be built up in knowledge, faith, holiness and comfort, unto salvation. To those who mourn in Zion, appoint, O Lord, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

The Lord hath been mindful of us; he will bless us, and them that fear him; he is our help and shield. And now, O Lord, we resign our-

selves to thee ; take us, we beseech thee, under thy care and protection this day ; preserve us from all evil, but especially from sin ; and quicken us, by thy Spirit, unto every good work, that so we may serve thee acceptably, and may make it our meat and drink to do thy blessed will. All which we do most humbly and earnestly beg of thee to grant, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## SABBATH EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God, on the evening of thy holy day, we would desire to approach into thy most sacred presence, in the name, and resting on the finished work of Christ. We would render all praise and glory to thy name for the valuable privileges which thou hast this day granted to us, in waiting upon thee in the public assembly of thy saints. Do thou, O Lord, sanctify to our souls the services in which we were there engaged ; and grant that they may be conducive to our spiritual advancement and growth in grace. May thy word, which was proclaimed in our hearing, sink deep into our hearts, and prove unto our souls the savour of life unto life. Forbid, Almighty Father, that it should prove unto any of us the savour of death unto death. May we ever listen to the proclamation of thy holy word with those feelings of reverence and gratitude which becomes the oracles of the living and true God to be heard. May we never esteem lightly those precious privileges with which thou hast blessed us ; but ever enter upon them with relish, and enjoy them as especial to our happiness, and as expressions of thy great

love to us. Teach us so to improve them as to cause us no regret in our dying hour. Thou, O Lord, hast greatly blessed us, above all the other nations of the earth ; thou hast given us thy will, and the public ordinances of thy house ; and we can sit down under our own vine, none daring to make us afraid. O Lord God, how many nations of the earth are bound in the chains of heathen darkness, and offering worship to stocks and stones, the work of their own hands, while we possess the knowledge and worship of thee, the living and true God. There is nothing naturally good in us more than there is in them, that could lead thee to bless us so very bountifully. It is thy grace alone that maketh us to differ. O Lord, may we rejoice that we are daily constrained to be debtors to thy grace !

Do thou, heavenly Father, accompany with thy rich and efficacious blessing the preaching of thy word this day, wherever it has been faithfully made known. Clothe thy ministering servants with salvation, and let thy believing people shout aloud for joy. May many souls have been led into the fold of Christ, and this day found that peace which nothing in the world could yield. And may thy people, by engaging in thy service, be stirred up to greater diligence and zeal in the divine life ; and may those who have been beset with temptations, have drawn largely from the stores of thy grace and Spirit, so that they will at last be more than conquerors through him that loved them ; and grant that it may be seen, that great inroads have been made into the territories of Satan, and that thy kingdom has been greatly extended. We pray that thy kingdom may come, and that it may soon embrace all

lands, nations, and tongues, when there shall be but one people, one faith, one Saviour.

Bless the whole family of the faithful. Dwell in our native land. Let thy blessing rest on the head of thy servant our Sovereign the Queen. Bless her Consort, and their young and interesting family. Counsel our Queen's counsellors, and teach her senators wisdom. Endow all rulers and magistrates with the spirit of their office; and diffuse among all ranks and conditions of men, the principles of the gospel of Christ.

May those who have been prevented from waiting on thee in thy house, from personal or relative affliction, have had those services made up to them by larger measures of thy grace, and more copious outpourings of thy Holy Spirit.

Comfort and console those of thy people who are in the furnace of affliction. Sanctify all the dispensations of thy providence to them; and amidst all their sufferings and trials may they be still, and know that thou art God. May they, like the Apostle, reckon the sufferings of this present time as not worthy of being compared to the glory which shall be revealed. May they ever be as docile children in learning the lesson thou designest to teach them by affliction. May they ever view the chastenings of thy rod, as the expressions of thy paternal love. Be very gracious, Almighty Father, to the dying. May their latter end be peace. May they fall asleep in Jesus, in the hope of a glorious resurrection, and may it ever be engraved on the hearts of those who attend their pillow, and may they ever be assured that blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

O Lord, blessed be thy name that thou hast revealed to us that there remaineth a rest for thy

people, when the trials and sufferings of earth are ended—a Sabbath whose sun shall never set, where the triumphant song, the theme of seraph and angel, has no end. Grant, O Lord, that each Sabbath may find us holier, humbler, and happier than when it found us ; becoming more and more meet for entering upon the service of that eternal Sabbath, and engaging in that song, to him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and his Father, to whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Bless those of thy ministering servants who have left the endearments of home, and friends, and country, and have gone forth, with their lives in their hands, to plant the standard of the cross on the shores of the heathen world. Hasten the happy time when the heathen shall cast their idols to the moles and to the bats, and shall worship thee, the only living and true God ; and when the war-song shall be exchanged for the peaceful song of Zion. O may the time soon come, foretold in thy word, when nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither learn the art of war any more ; but when they shall be as parts of that one spiritual kingdom, living in the fellowship of the gospel, and united to thee as their head and king.

Have mercy, O Lord God, on those of our own country, who are as benighted and ignorant of the way of salvation as the degraded heathen. May the light of the glorious gospel soon shine into their hearts. May they know that it will be more tolerable for the heathen in the day of judgment than it will be for those who, living in a land favoured so highly with Christian privileges, have not prized them, and have preferred to remain in



darkness, and in the bondage of sin and Satan. Have mercy upon them, O Lord, we earnestly beseech thee. Incline their hearts to thee; and may their past lives suffice to have wrought out the will of the flesh; and may they now desire to come and live to thee, who casteth out none that come to thee.

Now, O our God, be with us this night. Never leave us, never forsake us, but be our guide and portion now and for ever. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD of hosts, the God of the spirits of all flesh, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou shalt judge the world in righteousness, and the people in truth. Thine eye, O Lord, is upon them that fear thee, upon them that hope in thy mercy. Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of thy heritage? Thou retainest not thine anger for ever, because thou delightest in mercy.

We come before thee, O Lord, under a deep sense of our unworthiness. Our inmost thoughts, and our outward conduct, are sinful in thy sight. In us dwelleth no good thing. Our hearts are corrupt; our deeds are defiled. We confess, O God, that when we examine our hearts, we discover that many evil thoughts, and unhallowed purposes find a lodgment within them. We confess that when we mark our conversation, we ob-

serve that many idle, vain, and foolish words escape our lips. When we examine our conduct we see that much selfishness and sin,—that much unholiness and impurity,—that much contempt of thee, our God, and rejection of thine authority, characterize all our actions. When we look to our whole lives, we find, that they are full of sins. When we look to ourselves, we are impressed with the conviction, that we are very guilty.

Forbid, then, that we should bring our words and actions, our thoughts and desires, and purposes, all polluted as they are, and expect to find acceptance with thee, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and who cannot look upon sin. Forbid, that we should ever expect to procure thy favour and blessing, so long as we trust in our own power and strength. May we regard ourselves as we really are, as wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. Blessed be thy name, O God, that though we have sinned and come short of thy glory, there is a way of escape for us. We bless thee, that thou didst, in thine infinite wisdom, and boundless mercy, provide a remedy, and an all-sufficient Saviour for us, Jesus Christ, the righteous. For the fulfilment of this purpose of mercy for man, thou didst enter into a covenant of redemption with thy Son, in which Christ, as our surety, engaged to assume our nature, to fulfil the law which we had broken, and to endure the penalty which we had incurred. We confess, O God, that we, who are the objects of thy mercy, were in a state of bondage and captivity; and from this we could only be relieved by the payment of an adequate ransom; and this ransom was paid in that precious blood which was shed for remission of sins unto many. Grant that

we may have grace given us to acknowledge, and accept of Christ's righteousness. May it be a complete satisfaction to the justice of thee our God; so that in him we may be accepted as righteous, and treated as such. Experiencing in ourselves not only, that there is a foundation laid for our reconciliation, but that we are actually reconciled to God, by the death of his Son, we desire to hope that we shall obtain salvation by his life. May we draw near to Christ, and our souls shall live; and he will make with us an everlasting covenant, even the sure mercies of David. May we give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, and glorify the Lord that bought us; and thus shall we rejoice in the covenant of grace as the refuge of our safety, and the treasury of our blessings. Our confidence is not in ourselves, our hope is in thee, in thy mercy, and in Christ's all-sufficiency. O help us to redeem our misspent time, and to improve the present day of grace, and the means of life and salvation. Make us followers of Christ as dear children, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. Perfect that which concerneth us, and forsake not the work of thine own hands. May our souls, by thy grace, become the seats of divine and heavenly light. May the light of thy glory, as it shines in the face of Jesus Christ, shine into our minds, and beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, may we be changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We thank thee, O Lord, for all the mercies of the past night, and we implore a continuation of thy blessings, which every returning day requires. We thank thee for the institution of the Christian Sabbath, and for the privilege we yesterday en-

joyed of waiting on thee in thy house of prayer. May the truths, which we then heard, be so deeply impressed on our minds, as to be the means, through the operation of thy blessed Spirit, of producing in us deeper convictions of sin, and of our need of that Saviour, whom thou hast mercifully provided for us. May we be brought, through thy grace, to seek thee, the Lord,—to seek thee in the ordinances of thine own appointment, which thou hast promised to bless, and to render effectual for our conversion and salvation.

We pray for the universal diffusion of the gospel of Christ among the nations of the world; that the whole human race may become his willing subjects, and share the blessings of his righteous and merciful government.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to look with a merciful eye on all our relations and friends. Do thou protect them by thy power; do thou sanctify them by thy grace; and do thou make them the sons and daughters of thee, the Lord Almighty. Visit in mercy the sick and the afflicted. Do thou communicate to them the riches of thy grace, and the consolations of thy Holy Spirit. Be with us this day, and fit us for every duty. And all that we ask is for Christ's sake, to whom, with thee the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### MONDAY EVENING.

BLESSED God, we humbly adore thee as the Father of lights, and the giver of every good and perfect gift. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works; and thou art

continually doing us good, though we are sinful and ungrateful. Lord, give us grace to serve and honour thee, and in all our ways to trust in thee. The desire of our souls is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.

We admire and adore thy mercy, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us ; to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death, and to give the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins. We adore the grace of God, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began ; but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light. By him we have received the atonement, and to him we hope fully to look as our only Mediator and Advocate with the Father. Believing in him, may our hearts be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise ; may this spirit bear witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God, and made heirs of eternal life. O Holy Father, give unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of him, that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, we may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe.

O Lord, it is thy wondrous goodness and mercy, that if the wicked shall forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, thou wilt have mercy upon him, and abundantly pardon him. O let thy goodness lead us to repentance, not to be repented of. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out all our transgressions. And may we rely

only upon the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and upon the merit of his death for the obtaining of thy favour. May we be clothed with the robe of the Redeemer's righteousness, made partakers of the spirit of adoption, prepared by grace to walk in the ways of holiness, and revived with divine consolations. May we be recovered from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. Do thou, O Lord, put us in full possession of all the blessings of salvation, and bless us beyond our fondest hopes. May we be encouraged, and even constrained, by redeeming love, to walk with delight in the ways of holy obedience. May the principles of grace and holiness be wrought in our souls.

We adore the wonderful condescension of thee, our God, in beseeching us to accept of the blessings of salvation. We have gone astray from thee, but do thou, by thy grace, cause us to return, and, for Christ's sake, receive us graciously and love us freely. Enrich us with all spiritual blessings in him. Strengthen our faith, O Lord, and encourage our hope. Inspire us with a firm resolution to oppose every thing that lies in our way to heaven.

Send down upon us, O Lord, in a more rich and abundant effusion, thy good Spirit. May he dwell in us, as in a temple which he has consecrated for himself. Make us duly sensible, O Lord, of the advantages with which thou hast favoured us, and dispose and enable us to improve them to thy glory. And we pray, that the privileges and blessings which we enjoy, may be made known throughout the whole earth. O let all nations, whom thou hast made, come and worship before thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name; for thou art great, and dost wondrous things, thou art God alone. We pray

that our family may be blessed of thee, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed.

Bless all with whom we are in any respects connected. Do thou be their God, their Saviour and their mighty Deliverer.

Bless all who are in affliction. May their afflictions be so sanctified as to prove the happy means of promoting their spiritual life and prosperity.

To thy Fatherly care we now commend ourselves. May we abide this night under the shadow of thy wings ; and should we be permitted to arise in the morning, to enter again on the duties of life, may thy fear and love dwell in our hearts, and influence all our actions.

All that we ask is in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, to whom with thee, O Father, and the eternal Spirit, be honour, glory, and praise, henceforth and for evermore. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and unchangeable Jehovah ! Thou art independent of all thy creatures. Thy throne is in the heavens, which nothing can shake nor overturn. Thou, O Lord, art the true God ; thy glory is above all our thoughts, and thy mercies are more than can be numbered.

We desire to come to the mercy-seat of thee, our reconciled God, through the intercession of our Great High Priest, sincerely desiring, and humbly hoping for the blessings he purchased by his sufferings, and is now exalted to bestow. We come before thee, trusting in thy mercy, through

the atoning blood of Christ, seeking sanctification by the power of the Holy Ghost. O grant that the mercy of thee, our God, may soften our hard hearts, bend our rebellious wills, and constrain us with our whole heart to love thee, who hast first loved us.

Thou, O Lord, knowest the hardness, the vanity, and deceitfulness of our hearts. We were conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity ; and to our original sin we have added innumerable actual transgressions. Most justly mightest thou withdraw thy protection from us, and make us to feel the severe effects of thy displeasure. We have not only neglected thy work, but we have been disobedient to thy word. We would, therefore, O Lord, pour out our hearts, and humble ourselves before thee. Do thou, in mercy, forgive all our past sins ; and strengthen us with all might by the spirit of the inner man, so that we may be more watchful against temptations, and more successfully subdue our corruptions. Do thou root out of our hearts every vicious inclination, and do thou endue us with the graces of thy Holy Spirit.

We rejoice, O Lord, that with thee there is mercy that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that thou mayest be sought after. We disclaim all merit of our own. We look for salvation only through the blood of Christ. Grant us grace, O Lord, to believe on him, to the salvation of our souls ; and may we never consider ourselves safe until we are assured that we are the children of God by regeneration and adoption.

May we ever trace back the streams of actual sin to the fountain of original depravity, for our deeper humiliation. O Lord, give us true repent-



ance, for thy mercies' sake. Save us, O Lord Jesus, from our sins ; bless us with the blessing of righteousness ; feed us, O thou good Shepherd of the sheep, and lift us for ever from the dust, O thou who art the resurrection and the life.

Thou O Lord, in thy favour, hast fixed the safety of all that believe in thy name, and put their trust in thee, firm as the deep-rooted mountains ; but in every thing else we may expect to be shaken, and to meet with temptations, and afflictions. Do thou strengthen us. Help us to walk with increasing watchfulness, and to pray more fervently for the gifts of thy grace, and the operations of thy power. Thou art our refuge, to whom we may flee, and thou sustainest us up under our burdens ; when in distress, thou art our help, a help sufficient ; a very present help. Our happiness is bound up in thy favour, which is the life of the soul, the earnest of life eternal. Destroy, we beseech thee, more and more the power of sin in our hearts. Transform us more into thine own image, and conform us to the resemblance of Jesus, whom henceforth we would acknowledge as our Teacher and Sacrifice, our Intercessor, and our Lord. Thy commands we disobey ; thy promises we distrust ; thy name we dishonour.

Let thy salvation, O God, be made known to the ends of the earth, that all may be brought to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent, and whom to know is life eternal. Look in mercy on the sons and daughters of affliction ; may their afflictions be so sanctified to them as to prove beneficial to their souls. Shower down thy grace and blessing upon our relations and friends, and give thy holy Angels charge over them, to protect them from sin and danger.

We thank thee, O Lord, for protecting us from the evils and dangers of the past night, and for bringing us in safety to the light of a new day ; continue thus thy mercy and goodness to us. Deliver us, O God, from the evils of this day ; and guide our feet in the paths of peace and holiness ; and strengthen our resolutions, to embrace all opportunities of doing good, and carefully to avoid all occasions of evil. O give us the spirit of grace and supplication, that these and all our other prayers, may be acceptable to thee our God, blessed to us, and graciously answered, for thy mercy's sake, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### TUESDAY EVENING.

O MOST glorious Lord God ! thou art mighty in strength and wisdom. There is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel against thee. O Lord, thou art exalted as head above all. Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Thy divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Thy truth shall be our shield and buckler. Help us, O Lord our God ; and save us according to thy mercy. Thy way is in the whirlwind, and thy voice is in the thunder ; but thy beauty is in the life, thy light in the doctrine, thy smile in the peace, and thy triumphant love in the cross of Christ.

We confess, O God, that we are unworthy to appear in thy presence, or to take thy holy name into our polluted lips. We confess we have sinned against thee, the God of heaven, and exposed ourselves to thy righteous displeasure. But thou

hast not dealt with us according to our iniquities; thou hast waited to be gracious. Look not on us as we are in ourselves; behold, O God, our shield, and look upon us in the face of thine anointed. In him thou seest no iniquity in Jacob, nor perverseness in Israel; and, therefore, we entreat that, for his sake, we may find acceptance before thee. Believing in Christ, and trusting in the merits of his finished work, we would ask the remission of our sins. O let us not rest in a dead faith, but grant that we may have such a lively faith as will shew itself by love and good works; such a victorious faith, as may enable us to overcome the world, and grow in conformity to the image of thy Son. O give us grace, that we may die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, O thou Father of mercies, that thou hast contrived a way for our recovery. Eternal thanks be to the Lamb that was slain, and to that kind providence that sent the word of this salvation to us. O let us not receive the grace of God in vain. O impress the gospel of thy Son upon our souls, till its saving virtue be diffused over our every faculty. Let it not only be heard and acknowledged, and professed, but felt. Make it thy power to our eternal salvation; and fill us with that humble gratitude, and unwearied zeal in thy service, which become those to whom so much is forgiven.

Alas! how little do we perceive of the infinite greatness and glory of thee, the blessed Jehovah, who art the source of all excellence, and the fountain of all moral perfection. We are ashamed to think how blind we are to the eternal majesty, the spotless purity, the inflexible justice, the boundless mercy, and invariable faithfulness of thee, the

great Jehovah. But we pray that we may not remain in this darkness, seeing thou hast promised the Spirit of light to diffuse his celestial beams over our souls, and to give us an enlarged and satisfying view of the divine glory. We desire then to go to the throne of grace, praying for those divine influences, whereby we may perceive the beauties of the divine character, shining with new lustre, and with brighter splendour. Do thou give us increasing discoveries of thy divine glory. O Lord, cause thy face to shine upon us ; shine forth, O thou that dwellest between the cherubims. Impress us deeply, O Lord, with the consideration that we have ruined ourselves ; but that our help is to be found in thee alone, in thee through Christ, in whom alone thou wilt extend compassion and help to us. Shew us thy power to save us. May we know what it is to have our hearts subdued by love—so subdued as to be crucified with Christ ; as to be dead to sin, and to the world, but alive unto thee our God through Jesus Christ. In thy power and love we confide. To thee we, without any reserve, commit our spirits. May we bear thine image. May we observe thy laws. May we pursue thy service, and may we remain, through time and eternity, monuments of the efficacy of the gospel, and trophies of thy victorious grace. Accomplish in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness ; enrich us, O heavenly Father, with all the graces of thy Spirit, conform us to the image of thy dear Son ; and then, for his sake, come unto us, and manifest thy gracious presence in our souls, till they thus are ripened for glory.

Be especially present, we pray thee, O Lord, to all who are near and dear to us. May they and we

be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. May they and we be protected this night, be guided by thy counsel through life, and ultimately made partakers of everlasting happiness through Jesus Christ.

Supply the wants of the poor and of the needy ; and let those who are appointed unto death see thy salvation. Let thy way be known upon earth, and thy saving health among all people. And to thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we would ascribe all honour and glory, both now and for ever. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we desire to prostrate ourselves at the footstool of thy throne, with the deepest reverence and godly fear. Thou art worthy to receive all blessing, and glory, and honour. And blessed be God, that there is access to a throne of grace for such sinful and guilty creatures as we are, to make our supplications and requests known to God, the hearer of prayer, and the Father of mercies. Do thou, O Lord, enable us to come unto thee in faith, mentioning no other name, pleading no other righteousness, and trusting in no other atonement, than the name, righteousness, and atonement of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our adorable Advocate and Intercessor. We come to thee, trusting wholly in his perfect righteousness, and entreating, that for his sake, thou wilt be merciful to our unrighteousness, and our sins and iniquities thou wilt remember no more for ever. In him we desire to be found, and through him we hope for favour with thee, and

acceptance in thy sight. We desire to return to thee, our God, from whom we have revolted and gone astray, times and ways without number. O Lord, seek and find us, and bring us back to the Shepherd of our souls, to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Redeemer. We desire and resolve to be no more subject to Satan; we have been too long led captive by him at his will. O free us from his bondage, strike off the chains, and let the prisoners of hope go free. We sincerely resolve, by thy grace, to give up every thing that is sinful in the world, and to sacrifice every sinful pleasure. And, O blessed and holy Father, we not only resolve and engage to renounce sin, but to receive the Lord Jesus, as he is offered to us in the gospel; to take his yoke upon us which is easy, and his burden which is light; to accept of him on his own terms, not only with all his benefits and privileges, but in all his glorious offices, for knowledge and instruction, for life and salvation; and to reign in and rule over us, as our Lord, King, and Master. We do, O Lord, resign ourselves, and all that is ours, to thee our God in Christ; all that we are, and all that we have, and to dedicate and devote ourselves to thy service; to employ and improve our precious time in obeying thee, and in promoting thy honour and glory; and to evidence our faith, love, and obedience, in submitting to the sanctifying power of thy Spirit, and the disposing power of Providence, and this not only for time, but for ever. May our souls be washed in the blood of thy dear Son; may we be clothed with his righteousness; may we be sanctified by thy Spirit. Transform us more and more into the image of thy Son. Impart to us, through him, all needful influences of

the purifying, enlightening, and comforting Spirit. We wait for thy salvation, O Lord; in our weakness manifest thy strength, and let us have help from thee. We depend on the strength of thee, the Lord, for direction, help, and assistance; and we will go on in thy strength; we will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only; for we can do nothing but in Christ's strength; and in dependence upon his strength. O be surety for thy unworthy servants for good. Embrace us in thine everlasting arms. Let our life be spent under the guidance and teaching of thy Holy Spirit; and in the light of thy gracious countenance, as our Father and our God, may we be thine in time, and thine through eternity. And we pray, O Lord, that the many and valuable privileges which we enjoy, and the precious blessings bestowed upon us, and which have been purchased for, and secured to us by Jesus Christ, the Son of thy love, and the all-sufficient Saviour of lost sinners, may be enjoyed by all the nations of the world. Send the gospel where it is not; make it successful where it is; let it be mighty, through God, to the pulling down of the strongholds of sin and Satan.

May our family be blessed, in Christ Jesus, with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things, and also with temporal blessings, as far as thou seest good for us. May all who are near and dear to us belong to the flock of Christ; may they be the sheep of his pasture, hear his voice and follow it. Visit those that are in affliction; comfort them, and be unto them a very present help. All we ask is in the name, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the eternal Spirit, be honour,

glory, and praise, henceforth, and for evermore.  
Amen.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal Lord God ! heaven and earth are full of thy majesty, and of thy glory. Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. Just and true are thy ways, O thou King of Saints. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. The heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord ; thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon iniquity.

We are sensible, O our God, that we can do nothing of ourselves that will be acceptable to thee. We all stand in need of thy mercy and forgiveness. May we be enabled to draw near to thee at this time, with an awful and deep sense of thy majesty upon our spirits, and with an humble trust and confidence in thy mercy. We are guilty and polluted, O Lord ; our natures are wholly depraved by the apostacy of our first parents, and our lives have been stained with many actual transgressions. But in this we would rejoice, that, though we are sinners, we have an Advocate at thy right hand, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins. This is a faithful saying, and we esteem it worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save even the chief of sinners. O let our guilt be washed away in the blood of thy dear Son ; and accept of us in Him, though we stand chargeable with innumer-



able and aggravated transgressions. To thee, O Lord, would we now come, in the name, and trusting in the righteousness of thy Son. We are guilty, but we come to thee to pardon us. We are polluted, but we beseech thee to cleanse us. We are helpless, but we beseech thee to strengthen and to uphold us. Ignorant are we, but do thou instruct us : foolish, but do thou correct us : prone to wander, but do thou lead us. In all our ways let thine eye be upon us for good. Examine us, O Lord, and prove us ; try our reins and our hearts. May we, O Lord, be renewed in the spirit of our minds. A new heart do thou give us, and a right spirit do thou put within us. Make us partakers of the heavenly calling, and as thou who hast called us art holy, may we be holy in all manner of conversation. May the same mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus, and may we walk as he walked. Deliver us from being carnally minded, which is death ; and make us spiritually minded, since that is life and peace. Work in our hearts that godliness which is profitable unto all things ; and teach us, by the influence of the blessed Spirit, to love thee, the Lord our God, with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength. May we yield ourselves unto thee, as alive from the dead, and present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in thy sight, which is our most reasonable service. May we ever possess the most faithful attachment to the blessed Jesus, thine incarnate Son, the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person. Though we have not seen him, may we love him ; and in him, though now we see him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy un-

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speaking, and full of glory. And may the life which we live in the flesh, be by the faith of the Son of God. May we be filled with the Spirit ; and may we be so led by the Spirit, as to make it evident to ourselves and to others that we are the children of God, and heirs of glory. May we not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but the spirit of adoption, whereby we may be enabled to cry, Abba, Father ! May he work in us the spirit of love, and of power, and of a sound mind. May we be strong and courageous, and quit ourselves like Christians, in our work and warfare under the banner of the great Captain of our salvation. May we constantly be found in the way of righteousness, doing the will of God from the heart. Be continually present with us, enabling us to act as those who have obtained mercy, as those who have felt the preciousness of a Saviour, and the sweetness of redeeming love.

We pray for all that believe in Christ, that they all may be one ; and since there is but one body, and one spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, give to all Christians to be of one heart, and one mind.

Send forth thy light and thy truth to all nations ; disperse the dark clouds of idolatry, impiety, superstition, and infidelity ; and set up thy kingdom of peace and righteousness throughout the earth.

Visit with compassion the sons and daughters of affliction, and grant that they may be sustained under their afflictions, and that they may be sanctified to them. Prepare the dying for their great and solemn change ; and let the bereaved find in thee strong consolation.

Bless all who are near and dear to us with the rich blessings of thy grace.

We commend ourselves to thy protection this night. May we lie down in peace, and rest in safety. Bring us to the light of another day in health and strength, if it be thy will, and prepare us for every duty ; and accept of us and bless us for Christ's sake. Amen.

### THURSDAY MORNING.

WITH deep reverence and holy awe, we acknowledge, O Lord our God, that thou art very great. Thou art arrayed with majesty, glory, and excellency, infinitely surpassing our comprehension. Thy eternal power and Godhead are clearly seen by the things which thou hast made. Thou art light, and in thee there is no darkness at all. The Lord Jesus, the Son of thy love, is the light of the world ; and heaven, the scene of thy brightest manifestations, is the inheritance of the saints in light. The most sublime as well as the meanest agents in nature, are but so many instruments for the display of thine uncreated and eternal majesty.

Thou, O God, hast secured the happiness of thy peculiar people by promise and covenant ; but the order of the world in general thou securest by thy providence. Thou who hast made all, and rulest all by the word of thy power, disposest thy creatures according to the counsel of thy will, to thine own glory.

Blessed be thy name, O God, thou hast assured us that thou wilt provide for those who trust in thee. In thy foreknowledge of our lost estate,

long before we had existence, thou didst appoint thy beloved Son to be our Redeemer. In the fulness of time he appeared on earth in the form of a servant, and by his sufferings and obedience tasted death for every man. At the appointed time, the bands of death were loosed, and he was exalted as Mediator ; all the treasures of grace and salvation are entirely at his disposal, perishing sinners come to him, and are relieved from his inexhaustible stores. How inconceivable then is the love of thy beloved Son, in taking upon him the nature of man, to ransom guilty souls. May the love thus shewn to us deeply affect our minds : May we feel that we are not our own. And grant that we accept of Christ as the Lord our righteousness. We rejoice, O God, that though our sins are many, and aggravated, yet thy mercy, and the merit of our blessed Redeemer are infinite, and of infinite value, and he on whom thou hast laid strength, is mighty, and able, yea willing to save to the uttermost, all that come to him by faith in sincere repentance. May we submit ourselves entirely to him, to his grace and government, and triumph in him as our Prophet, Priest, and King, by whom we hope to be ruled, and taught, and saved for ever. Let thy renewing Spirit direct us, and by thy grace, perfecting strength in our weakness, be sufficient for us.

O give us saving faith to rely on him who is the Lord of life, for the life and salvation which are only to be found in and through him who was dead and is now alive, and may we recollect that faith is not of ourselves, that it is the gift of thee our God. O thou, who art the author, and finisher of our faith, help our unbelief. Lord increase our faith, and perfect what is lacking in us, that we

may now and hereafter walk believingly, as becometh the redeemed of the Lord. We can do nothing of ourselves, but thou art an all-sufficient God. Supply all our spiritual wants; enlighten our darkened understandings; and enable us, O Father, to see light in thy marvellous light; and take us out of a state of nature, and plant us in grace. Do thou give us spiritual strength, subdue our corruption, and sow the seeds of grace in our hearts. Let us not any more lift up our souls to vanity; but fix our hearts and affections upon thee our only God and Saviour. Give us the spirit of humility and meekness. Let us not trifle away our precious and invaluable time; but give us grace to improve it aright in honouring, seeking, and serving thee, and in working out the work of our salvation with fear and trembling.

We pray, O Lord, that thou wouldst be merciful to thy Church, and bless it with increasing knowledge, purity, and love; and may every thing be removed which will tarnish the beauty of it. We pray that thy saving health may be diffused through all nations; that our Redeemer may establish his righteous kingdom over all mankind; that they may yield praise and glory to his name; and all the ends of the earth worship him in reverence and godly fear. Do thou, O God, by thy grace, qualify us for thy favour, and give us the tokens of it.

Do thou, O Lord, send deliverance and consolation to all who are in affliction. May they be saved from sin, as well as from sorrow. May they be instructed in the way of righteousness by the light of heavenly wisdom, shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Prepare those that are appointed to die, for death, judgment, and eternity.

Take us all, we beseech thee, under thy gracious protection ; guard us this day by thy good providence from every thing that is evil.

We beseech thee, gracious God, to hear us, to accept of us, and to answer us ; and all that we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

### THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in thee all creatures live, and move, and have their being : thy mercy is over all thy works. Thy name is Jehovah, whom all the hosts of heaven, and all nature obey ; whose kingdom ruleth over all, and who, while from thy stores thou providest most amply the rewards of obedience, bringest forth from them, instruments of punishment for every variety of transgression, and for sinners of every condition, and of every age. Thou, O Lord, hast given us many displays of thy power, dominion, and glory, in thy word and providence. We have seen what judgments thou hast executed on the nations that forsook thee ; what empires thou hast overthrown for the establishment of thine own kingdom ; what protection and peace thou hast afforded to those who serve thee ; and what high imaginations thou hast brought to the obedience of Christ. How rich and varied are thy benefits ! and as every moment adds to thy favours, so does it to our obligations. Thou, O Lord, requirest nothing from us, but what is thy due. We have no hope but from thy mercy in Christ. We plead before thee no merit of our own ; we pretend to none, but pardon us for thy name's sake. There is no salvation but from thy favour. We must

turn to thee from the world and the flesh ; and then thou wilt cause thy face to shine upon us.

Blessed be thy name, O God, that thou hast in Christ Jesus wrought for us a redemption in which there is a remedy for every evil, a security for every blessing, a redemption which should fill the whole earth with wonder and gratitude ; and in virtue of which the grave shall give up its dead, and judgment shall welcome its objects to peace and joy. May we, O Lord, become thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture. Thou hast endowed us with all the faculties which we possess ; and shall we not devote them to thy service ? Shall the hearts which thou hast formed be enmity against thee ? or the lips which thou hast opened, murmur at thy will ? Thou art our Preserver ; and shall not thou whose daily care we experience, receive from us daily service ? Art thou every moment acting for our happiness ; and should not we every moment act to thy glory ? Thou art our God, and thou assurest us in thy word, that thy obedient people shall find thee their portion to enrich them for ever. In every attribute of thy nature, in every character of thy grace, in every promise of thy word, in every event of thy providence, and in every scene of our being, thou shalt be ours, to bless us. May we seek thee, the Lord our God, with tears and prayers, and join ourselves to thee in a perpetual covenant, never to be broken, nor forgotten ! We can neither expect the comfort of thy love, nor the protection of thine arm, unless we are partakers of thy converting grace. Thou, O God, that hadst power at first to settle, and still to preserve the course of nature, certainly hast all power both to

save and to destroy; and with thee nothing is impossible. Thou that art faithful to thy covenant, wilt certainly make good thy promise, to thy people, and wilt never cast off those whom thou hast chosen. The people of thy purchase shall be for ever the people of thy praise.

Sanctify to us all thy dispensations. May we remember, that thou ordainest all things for good to them that love thee. Give unto us everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace. Impress us, O God, with the belief that thy deliverances from trouble are granted in love; and are mercies indeed, when grounded upon the pardon of sin. We should therefore be more earnest with thee our God in prayer for the removal of our sins, than even for the removal of our afflictions.

We entreat thee, O Lord, to have respect unto thy covenant; to enlighten the dark nations of the earth which are full of cruelty and wickedness. Grant that the time may soon come when the Jews shall be converted, the visible Church purified, Antichrist destroyed, and the fulness of the Gentiles confirmed.

We pray, O Lord, for all who are visited with affliction. May they be earnest in prayer to thee for the blessings of which they stand in need, yet with all humility and patience. Visit with thy consolations all such as are drawing near to death.

To thy guidance and care we this night commend ourselves, and all who are near and dear to us. To them, and to us, may the Lord God be a sun and shield; may the Lord give us grace and glory; and no good thing may he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

We ask every mercy in the name, and for the



sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

O LORD our God, we desire at this time, to draw near to the footstool of thy throne, with humility and reverence, to acknowledge, with the greatest fervency of spirit, and in the most devout and humble manner, our obligations to love and serve thee. Thy riches are unsearchable ; and thy righteousness and glory are everlasting. Thy mercy is the fountain of all our comforts, and thy truth the foundation of all our hopes. Faith in thy boundless and everlasting mercy and truth, O Lord, brings comfort even in the deepest adversity.

We acknowledge, O God, thy great and daily goodness to us, and our own unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. We have sinned against thee, who hast every claim to our love and obedience,—our Creator, our Preserver, and most bountiful Benefactor. If we would attempt to justify ourselves, our own mouths would condemn us. Innumerable evils have compassed us about ; our iniquities have taken hold upon us, so that we are not able to look up ; they are more than the hairs of our heads ; and therefore our heart faileth us.

Thou, O God, didst look upon us with compassion when in our low and lost estate, and didst provide a ransom for us. Jesus Christ the Son of thy love is our great atonement ; and we are invited to the enjoyment of pardon through faith in his

blood. Under a deep sense of our guilt and danger, we are warranted to apply for salvation to that mercy which reigns through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ, our Lord. Save us, O Lord, from our sins; bless us with the blessings of thy righteousness; feed us, O thou good Shepherd of the sheep; and lift us up for ever from the dust, O thou who art the resurrection and the life. May a saving participation of grace and forgiveness leave a deep impression of its fulness and excellency on our souls. May we put no trust in any merit or sufficiency of our own, but trust solely in the perfect and finished work of Christ. We desire, O Lord, to know more of ourselves, more of our wants and weaknesses, more of thee, our Father who art in Heaven; and to apprehend more of Christ, his person, offices, and grace; and to become better acquainted with the doctrines of thy holy Word, and the duties of religion. Do thou, O Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, possess us thoroughly with thy fear, that we may not incur thy threatenings; and support us with the joys of thy salvation, that we may be filled with thy love, and cheerfully run the race that leadeth to glory and immortality. Thou, O Lord, art our strength, our God, our refuge, and only Deliverer. O be pleased to inspire our souls with proper thoughts of thee: teach us to call upon thee acceptably, and enable us to do those things that are pleasing in thy sight. We know that there is but one way of averting thy wrath,—one offering which thy mercy will not reject. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Yet even this, we cannot give thee, unless thou first vouch-

safest to bestow it on us. Therefore, O thou Father of lights, from whom every good thing cometh, enrich us, we beseech thee, with the gracious influences of thy Holy Spirit, that we may possess and exemplify these graces.

We come to thee, O Lord, imploring the blessings of which we stand in need. While we daily look for salvation to the blood of the cross, and to that only, may we be enabled to adorn the doctrine of our Saviour, by abounding in all the fruits of righteousness. May Christ live in us : and may the life which we now live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and who gave himself for us.

We pray, O Lord, for the success of the gospel, and the advancement of the kingdom of Christ throughout the world. To Him thou hast committed the charge of universal government ; to Him is given all power in heaven and earth. May he exalt himself by his all-powerful grace, in our hearts, destroying all the strongholds of sin and Satan.

Be thou the God of this family ; may they live by the faith of the Son of God ; and out of his fulness receive grace for grace.

Visit those that are in affliction, and comfort them, and be unto them a very present help. Be very gracious to all who are near and dear to us. Supply the wants of the poor and needy, and let those who are appointed unto death see thy salvation.

Hear our prayers, O God. Accept of our thanksgivings, and bless us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

BLESSED and glorious Lord God Almighty, we desire humbly to adore thee, as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and through him, as our reconciled God and Father. Thou art infinitely blessed in thyself, and the gracious author of all our blessings.

Thy nature, O God, infinitely exceeds the capacities of our understandings. The ages of thine eternity cannot be numbered, nor the spaces of thine immensity measured; the depths of thy wisdom cannot be fathomed, nor the extent of thy power bounded; the brightness of thy glory can never be described, nor the treasures of thy goodness exhausted. Our finite understandings cannot fathom thy counsels, apprehend thy motions, or comprehend the measures devised by thine infinite wisdom and power.

Thou, O Lord, knowest the designs and hopes of vain men, and can defeat the workings of their imaginations. The revolutions of kingdoms are wonderfully brought about by an over-ruling Providence.

O God, we confess that man cannot pretend to be clean and righteous before thee, or to recommend himself to thy favour. We confess we are unclean and unrighteous, because we are guilty and polluted. We have grievously sinned against thee, the Lord Almighty. We have abundant reason to be covered with shame and confusion of face, when we reflect upon our numberless transgressions in thought, word, and deed. O give us true repentance, even repentance unto salvation, that needeth not to be repented of.

Blessed be thy name, O God, there is a salvation provided and revealed, not from temporal sorrows, but from the wrath to come. That there is a Mediator for us of thine own appointment,—thy beloved Son, in whom thou art ever well-pleased, who is not ashamed to call us brethren, who has purchased peace for us with the blood of his cross, and who is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto thee through him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for us. If we trust in his name, our iniquities will be buried in the depths of the sea; we shall be washed from all our filthiness, and made whiter than snow; so that none can lay any thing to our charge; we shall be clothed with the robes of righteousness and salvation, adorned with the graces of the Holy Spirit, and presented faultless before the presence of this glory with exceeding joy.

Impress us, O God, with the belief that our real happiness consists in seeking thy mercy and favour; in repenting of, and confessing our sins; in accepting thy mercy and salvation; and in praying earnestly for thy sanctifying grace, that thou mayest cast away our transgressions. May we devote to thee our souls, bodies, and spirits—ruling our families in thy faith and fear.

Impress us we beseech thee, O Lord, with the conviction, that until we are born of the Spirit, no spiritual good thing can dwell in us, or can proceed from us. We desire, therefore, to humble ourselves before thee, and to give up all self-dependence, casting ourselves wholly on thee, through the mediation of our divine surety. May we look to Jesus, who, though free from sin, was tempted, and who is able to succour them that are tempted. May we come to him who invites

the weary and heavy laden ; and who promises in no wise to cast them out that come to Him.

May we be justified through faith in Christ ; may we be made holy by divine grace, so as to be prepared for being exalted to glory in heaven, where the Lord himself will be our everlasting light. Our worthlessness enhances thy condescension and love ; and the riches of thy mercy, and the power of thy grace, will be magnified by every redeemed sinner to all eternity. Blessed be the Lord, for he hath shewn us his marvellous loving-kindness. May we honour thee our God, by trusting in thee only, not in an arm of flesh ; may we trust in thy providence, and never lean to our own understandings ; may we trust in thy grace, and seek not to establish our own righteousness or sufficiency. Lord, be at peace with us, accept of us. Manifest thyself to us, and let us be satisfied with thy loving-kindness. Blessed Lord, let our desires be increasing every moment toward thee ; let our love be always toward thee ; let all our enjoyments be in thee ; and all our satisfaction from thee. Be thou all in all to us, while we remain in the present life ; and may we be brought home to the everlasting enjoyment of thyself for ever.

We pray, O Lord, that the light of the gospel may enlighten our souls, and shine upon all the nations of the earth ; and from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, let thy name be great among the Gentiles.

Comfort the afflicted ; succour the tempted ; strengthen the weak ; instruct the ignorant ; and reclaim the wandering.

Be very gracious, we beseech thee, to all our friends. Sanctify them by thy Holy Spirit. Be with us, we entreat thee, during this night ;

watch over us, and over all who are dear to us. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

FATHER of mercies and God of love, thou art exalted as head over all. The whole earth is full of thy glory. Who can find out thee the Almighty unto perfection !

We acknowledge, O God, that every view we take of thine infinite perfections, should remind us of thy right to our love, the evil of sinning against thee, and our need of thy mercy and salvation. Whatever scenes we witness, whatever changes we experience, may we stay our minds on the Lord Jesus Christ, who will give strength to his people, and bless them with his unspeakable peace. Do thou, O Lord, make us more sensible than ever of our guilt and pollution ; and we would cast ourselves wholly on thy mercy, and submit unreservedly to thy will. We would, with broken and contrite hearts, confess our sins to thee our God. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. If we confess our sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Blessed be thy name that, when all had sinned, a ransom was found in Jesus Christ, who was both the Priest and the sacrifice.

Adored for ever be thy name, that so great was the value of our souls, that nothing less could redeem them, and so great the injury done by sin,

that nothing less could atone for it than the blood of the Son of God. We pray that the righteousness of Christ, as our glorious Mediator and surety, may be the everlasting comfort, confidence, and joy of our hearts. For us he was tempted, suffered, and triumphed. For us, when we were enemies, he offered himself a sacrifice, and now pleads for us before the throne. In him we are pardoned and accepted. There is no salvation in any other. To Him we must come, in Him we must confide, to Him we must submit, and from Him receive all that we can want. But we confess, O God, that we can give him nothing except ourselves, to be, by his grace, his redeemed and devoted servants. May we then experience his grace, share his victories, tread in his steps, and take up his cross, and follow him through good and through bad report.

We rejoice to believe, O God, that thou hast revealed thy Son to us ; that by the Spirit thou has revealed him in us, and so changed us into the same image. Thy condescension, O God of glory, in making thyself known to sinful man for his salvation, instead of punishment for his rebellion, demands our greatest admiration and gratitude. We would wish to be justified by our own works, while thy word assures us we must be justified by faith in Christ. May his righteousness become ours by faith.

We pray earnestly, O Lord, that thou wouldst send forth the truth of thy word, and the light of thy Spirit, to guide us in the way of holiness, peace, and salvation. Grant us, and all thy Church, all the blessings of thy kingdom of grace here, and glory hereafter. Set up thy kingdom in our hearts. Bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. And do thou so con-



strain all the powers and faculties of our souls, into holy love and fear, and delight in thee, that praises with understanding may go forth from every heart to thee, the God of our salvation.

Do thou, O Lord, fulfil thy promises, answer the prayers of thy people, hasten the happy period thou hast taught us to expect, when the glory and praises of the Lord our God, shall fill the whole earth, that thy servants may be glad, and rejoice, and give honour to thee, who livest and reignest for ever. Remove every obstacle that hinders the success of the gospel. Let all the dispensations of thy providence be sanctified to the afflicted. Make thy face to shine upon them ; save them for thy mercy's sake.

May all who are near and dear to us be the objects of thy peculiar care and love ; and may our enemies be interested in thy forgiveness.

We thank thee for the safety and rest of the past night. Graciously continue thy protection and favour to us, this day. Incline thine ear to our requests, O Lord, and accept of us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O GOD, Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, we desire, with humble and penitent hearts, to come to the footstool of thy throne, adoring thy Divine Majesty, and greatness, and glory, as exalted above all blessing and praise. Trusting to thy power as Lord of heaven and earth, and casting ourselves on thy love and mercy as our Father in Jesus Christ, and in the name of Christ, trusting to thy goodness, and resigning ourselves to

thy government, may we be thy children, and the disciples of thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son. Prepare our hearts to seek thee, and answer us according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. We mourn over our ingratitude, and the hardness and impenitence of our hearts ; but, above all, we bewail our disregard of the blessed record thou hast given us of thy beloved Son.

Though we have read of his glory, how little does it affect us ! Though he has a name which is above every name, in heaven or earth, how little do we love him, notwithstanding all that he has done and suffered, on our behalf ! Most justly mightest thou, O God, have brought upon us all the curses written in the book of thy law. And had thy ways been as our ways, and thy thoughts as our thoughts, we had long since been past the power of offering to thee our thanksgivings and praises—beyond the benefit of prayer, or the hope of ever obtaining pardon.

Humble us, we pray thee, under a sense of our ingratitude and sinfulness. Fill us with deep and heartfelt sorrow, on account both of our omissions of duty, and our transgressions of thy holy law. May we, under a deep and lively conviction of our sins and transgressions, rejoice in it, as a faithful saying, and above all things worthy to be believed, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Here indeed is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for us. O wash us in his blood ; justify, adopt, and accept of us in him. In his all-prevailing name, we beseech thee to look down upon us in compassion. Let thy thoughts towards us be thoughts of peace and not of evil. We con-

fess, O God, that there is an evil heart in every one of us, and that nothing but thy sanctifying Spirit can restore us to spiritual health.

We rejoice to know that by the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, the most guilty and polluted sinners may be enabled to cease from evil, and to do good ; may find pardon, and acceptance by faith in Christ. Deliver us from our sins, O Lord, and give us thy good Spirit. Grant us grace to love thee, and to obey thee. O Lord incline every one of us to accept of thy mercy, and to live to thy glory. We are in ourselves nothing, can do nothing, and by reason of sin are worse than nothing ; be pleased, therefore, O Lord, to carry on thy work with power in our souls. Blessed be thy name there is abundant encouragement to all to trust in thee ; and for all to repent and return to thee. May we willingly renounce all worldly interests and sinful gratifications, and cease from dependence upon man, that we give ourselves up to thee, the Lord, to serve thee in righteousness all our days. Under the guidance and influence of thy Spirit, may we apply all the means of grace with which we are favoured to their proper ends. May we derive benefit from the dispensations of thy providence, and the ordinances of thine appointment. Let us, in all our troubles, put our trust and confidence in thy mercy ; let us confess our sins, and pour out our hearts before thee, and let us in thy strength watch against and resist all temptations to sin. Thou, the Lord, art our portion and salvation ; and in thy word do we hope. O Lord, bless us with awakening, converting, renewing, and confirming grace. May we be thine in time, and thine for ever.

We pray, O Lord, that thou wouldst grant prosperity to the Church, and enlarge the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. May all the ends of the earth soon see the salvation of thee our God.

Pity the sick and afflicted. May they flee to thee in all their distresses, and call upon thee in the day of trouble, knowing that they have a great High Priest at thy right hand to plead for them, who is touched with a feeling of their infirmities, who was himself a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Spare useful lives, and prepare all for death, judgment, and eternity.

May all who are near and dear to us be blessed of thee, the God of heaven. Bless us as individuals and as a family, may we be all interested in the pardoning love of Christ. Take us under thy care this night. Extend over us the shield of thy protecting Providence. Spare us to see the light of another day of the Son of Man: may we awake with minds impressed with thy goodness; and may we be prepared by thy grace for whatever may be thy will concerning us. We pray, O Lord, that thou wouldst prepare all thy ministering servants for the important duties which they have to discharge, and thy people also for the devotions of the Sabbath. Bless him who ministers to us in holy things; and do thou give us the hearing ear, and the understanding heart. All that we ask is for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

## INCIDENTAL PRAYERS.

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### 1.—PRAYER TO BE USED BY THOSE PREVENTED ATTENDING PUBLIC ORDINANCES.

O LORD GOD, thou hast, in the dispensations of thy providence, prevented us from worshipping thee in thy courts, with the congregation of thy saints, this day. But blessed be thy name, we are not precluded from worshipping thee at the footstool of thy throne; that we have it ever open to us; and that, on every emergency, we can betake ourselves to it, to seek thy blessing, and thy grace. We rejoice, that though thou hast said thou lovest the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob, thou hast promised to be with those who are of an humble and contrite heart, and who tremble at thy word. Do thou draw near unto us, O Lord, and bless us, as we desire to draw near to thee. Do thou enable us to worship thee here, in our dwelling, in an acceptable manner, and, as thou hast commanded us, in spirit and in truth. Enable us to read thy word earnestly and prayerfully. May we never open its sacred pages without observing the traces of divine and heavenly truth, which are shewn in every line, and which illuminate every page. As we read, may we wonder and rejoice at the unsearchable riches of divine grace, which it makes

known to us, sinners. And may we wonder and rejoice at its revealing, how thou, who art a just God, can be just, and yet the justifier of them who believe in Jesus; that he that sanctifies, and they that are sanctified, are both of one. Enable us to glory in the cross of Christ, counting it our meat and drink, to take it up and to follow Him to the end. May our draughts be large and long at its wells of salvation. May it ever be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, to guide us in the way everlasting.

Though separated from thy people by place, may we be with them in Spirit. We desire to join in their hymns of praise and adoration; and to unite in their prayers.

Bless all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. Be with all who are similarly circumstanced with ourselves. Bless us this day; and may we, at its close, have no cause to say, that we have spent it unprofitably. O Jacob's God, be our God. We ask every mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

2.—PRAYER TO BE USED BY A FAMILY SUFFERING UNDER  
ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

O LORD our God, we would ever desire to adore and magnify thy holy name, for the way of access which we have into thy presence, at all times, and under all circumstances, through the blood of Christ,—that we can come to thee when all is fair and prosperous with us, to thank thee, and to ask thy guidance and direction. And that we can also approach to thy footstool when our prospects

are dark, and our circumstances adverse, to implore thy succour, and thy sustaining grace; and it is for these that we would now earnestly pray.

O Lord, in thine infinite wisdom, thou hast been pleased to withdraw from us the temporal mercies with which thou hast so long blessed us; and our basket and store are empty. All thy creatures are dependent on thee; and thou givest to each its portion of meat in due season. Though thou art now seeming to frown on us in our worldly circumstances, yet would we still put our trust in thee; for thou art an ever-faithful God, and never puttest to shame those that rely upon thee. We would desire meekly to learn the lesson which this visitation of thy providence is meant to teach us. We confess, that the world, and the world's treasures, took up too much of our time, thoughts, and heart; and thou, in thine infinite goodness, hast deprived us of our earthly prosperity. May this teach us to set our heart more on heaven, and to live more devoted to thee.

We confess, O Lord, with deep contrition, that we have seldom or never offered up the prayer of thy servant of old, Give us not riches, lest we should forget thee. We would desire now to say, with him, Nor poverty, lest we put forth our hands to steal.

Bless us, O Lord, again, we earnestly beseech thee, in our basket and store. May this visitation be sanctified to our souls. Be no longer angry with us, O our God. Lift upon us the light of thy reconciled countenance, and give us peace; and give us each day our daily bread.

Hear us, O Lord, we earnestly pray; and grant us an answer in peace, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

3.—PRAYER FOR THE RECOVERY OF A MEMBER OF A FAMILY  
LABOURING UNDER BODILY OR MENTAL AFFLICTION.

ALL-WISE and ever-merciful God, we would, at this time, approach unto the place where thine honour dwelleth, making mention of Christ's righteousness, and of his only. We rejoice that thou hearest us always for his sake; and we would come before thee, imploring that thou wouldst restore to health and strength those of our number whom thou, in thine infinite wisdom, hast seen meet to lay on a bed of affliction. Thou hast said, in thy word, that thou chastisest the children whom thou lovest. May this be a chastisement sent in love; and do thou now, we pray thee, heal the wound; and may the soul come forth from the furnace purged from the dross which clogged it, and from which it was thy good pleasure to purify it, by casting it into the furnace. May this affliction be sanctified to their soul; and when again raised up to health and to active life, may they be enabled to say with the Psalmist, Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. If it be thy will, O thou great Jehovah, have mercy upon us. Graciously listen to our petitions; and bless those, on whose behalf we now address thee, by again raising them up to us in health of body, and soundness of mind, and to the enjoyment of health and of life. O thou great physician, heal them; and restore them to us, to be with us as in times that are past.

O Lord give ear unto our supplications; and, when thou hearest, answer and forgive, for Christ's sake. Amen.



4.—PRAYER FOR A MEMBER OF A FAMILY DRAWING NEAR  
TO DEATH, AND WITHOUT HOPE OF RECOVERY.

O LORD, our God, we bend before thee, to supplicate thy mercy and thy grace on behalf of our dear relative who is seemingly on the verge of the eternal world. We had hoped for his recovery, but our hopes have been disappointed; and we now resign all into thy hands. Do as it seemeth to thee to be good. O, compassionate Saviour, be with us in the hour of trial; and near our dear friend at the hour of death. O, as it draws near, may his faith be firm—resting on the rock of ages. May he be enabled to exclaim, My beloved is mine, and I am his: he is to me the chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely. May he now experience the richness of thy pardoning mercy and sustaining grace. May the grave to him possess no terrors, and death no sting; and may he come off at last a conqueror, through his Saviour, and sing exultingly, O death where is thy sting! O grave where is thy victory! May the dark valley of the shadow of death be illuminated by the rays of the glory of heaven, and may he walk through it leaning on the arm of his beloved Saviour. Grant him, O Lord, a safe and easy entrance into glory. And may he so have fought the fight, and kept the faith, as to obtain at last a crown of everlasting life through Jesus Christ his Redeemer. Be with him, O Lord. Send thine angels to bear his spirit to the regions of the blessed, where thou art the theme and the object of adoration and of praise.

We commit him and us to thy care, O our God; graciously answer our petitions; for all we ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

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## 5.—PRAYER TO BE USED AFTER HIS OR HER DEATH.

O LORD thou hast been pleased to call our dear friend from this world of suffering and of sin to thyself. With adoring gratitude in our hearts, though our eyes are filled with tears, would we desire to render thee thanks for the calm and peaceful departure which we have now witnessed. Glory be to thy name that he has fallen asleep in Jesus,—another trophy of thy pardoning mercy and saving grace. We thank thee, that we have no reason to mourn as those who have no hope. Keep us, O Lord, from murmuring. Give us strength and fortitude to bear up under this trial. Ever sustain us by thy grace. Console our bleeding hearts. Accept our thanks, O Lord, and bless us abundantly, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## 6.—PRAYER UPON THE DEATH OF A FRIEND.

O LORD, who by searching can find thee out, who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? Thou art unsearchable in thy ways, and thy judgments are past finding out. Almighty Creator, we are the work of thy hands. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Thou hast endowed us with reason, and other faculties, and thou hast given us objects on which to exercise them. Thou hast blessed us with affections, capable of loving, and which tend to render this life a bright and beautiful existence. Thou hast given us those who are worthy of our love, on which to bestow our affections, and to call them into exercise, so that

the cup of this world's sorrow might be sweetened, and our condition alleviated. Death has broken these bonds, and removed from amongst our circle of friends, one whom we dearly loved. We mourn the loss of a departed friend, but still sincerely trust that our loss is his gain. O Lord, we are greatly afflicted by this stroke; do thou comfort us. And grant, Almighty Father, that by this dispensation being sanctified to us, our affections may be more weaned from earth, and be more firmly placed upon heaven, and the things thereof.

O Lord, ever keep us in mind of our latter end, so that when death comes he may not find us unprepared. May we remember, that we must soon follow, in the steps of our departed relative, to that unseen world from which none ever return. And enable us to look forward with calm and patient hope to meeting around thy throne in glory, where death shall never enter to break up our relationship, and where sin and sorrow cannot mar our joy.

Sooth our sorrowing hearts, we earnestly beseech thee, with thy gracious and precious promises. Make up our loss by implanting within us more of Christ, and of Christ's love. Blot out all our transgressions; and accept of us for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

**7.—PRAYER TO BE USED BY A FAMILY WHO HAVE BEEN VISITED BY HEAVY BEREAVEMENTS.**

O LORD, thou art He who didst create the heavens and the earth. Thou didst form us out of the dust of the ground, and breathe into our

nostrils the breath of life, and we became living souls.

We come unto thee, O Lord, by that new and living way which thou hast opened up to us through the rent veil of the Redeemer's flesh. We rejoice that our great Intercessor and High Priest is God as well as man, and is therefore able to sympathise with us in every condition in which we, in thy providence, may be placed. It has been thy will to lay thy hand very heavily upon us. In thy mysterious providence thou hast removed from among us, those who were very dear to our hearts, in whose society we have often taken sweet counsel, and in whose friendship we had great delight. Earth cannot supply the loss, nor gold restore it. Our hearts are bleeding, and our souls are sorrowful. O thou, compassionate Saviour, who didst weep at the grave of Lazarus, bind up our wounded hearts, and comfort our sad and drooping spirits. May we rejoice that the grave is now no longer a gloomy path; and that thy Word has dispelled its darkness, and revealed what is beyond it,—the rest that remains for the people of God. Enable us to follow the departed, with the eye of faith, to the realms of everlasting bliss. May we not mourn as those who have no hope, but may we rejoice in the thought, that they have but left the family on earth to join the family of the redeemed in heaven.

Enable us, O Lord God, to bow with all submission beneath this visitation of thy chastening rod, and, like docile children, learn the lesson thou designest to teach us by it. May our affections be more weaned from earth, and set more than ever upon heaven, seeing that our treasure there is increased. And while we mourn the loss

of our dear relatives, may we, with hearts overflowing with love and gratitude to thee, exclaim with thy servant of old, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord. May we be enabled, by thy grace strengthening us, to follow in the footsteps of our departed friends in the way to holiness, and be animated with the joyful hope of meeting together around the throne in heaven. And may it ever be our earnest prayer and desire to die the death of the righteous, and that our latter end may be like his.

We put our trust in thee, who hast promised to be a Father to the fatherless, a stay to the orphan, a help to the widow, and a shield to the stranger.

Hear us, O Lord, and give us the consolations of thy Holy Spirit, which are neither few nor small ; and bless us for Christ's sake. Amen.

#### 8.—PRAYER TO AVERT THREATENED JUDGMENT.

O THOU great and wise Being, thy wisdom is infinite, and thy ways are unsearchable. Thou doest thy will in the armies of heaven, and amongst the creatures of this world. None can stay thine hand from working, or call in question the rectitude of thy procedure ; but all bow before thee, and acknowledge that thou doest all things right and well. Thou movest in a mysterious way, to perform thy wonders. Thou plantest thy footsteps in the sea, and ridest on the storm.

We come before thee, O Lord, at this time, and earnestly pray, that thou wouldst avert the

judgment with which thou art threatening us. We confess, O Lord, that we justly merit it, on account of our many sins, and our great ingratitude ; but look upon us in the face of thine anointed, and put the judgment far from us. We earnestly entreat thee, to hear our prayer, and grant our request. But, if thou hast otherwise decreed, enable us to bow to the decree, and to add in faith, the words of our blessed Redeemer, Not our will, but thine, O Lord, be done. Perhaps the very judgment we are desiring to be delivered from, may be to us a blessing in disguise. The clouds we so much dread are often big with mercy, and break with blessings on our head.

Enable us ever to keep our great Redeemer before us, and to imitate his example. He, when on earth, offered thee, O Heavenly Father, the same prayer, that the cup of divine wrath might pass from him ; yet submissively added not his, but thy will be done. His request was not granted. Had it been so, his blood would not have been shed ; and our sins could not have been pardoned ; for thou, by thy word, hast declared, that without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin. And enable us to believe that this judgment, if it be thy will that it be sent, will prove of eternal benefit to our souls, while its being put away from us might prove to our everlasting destruction. O prepare us then for it. We put our trust in thee. Never leave us, never forsake us, but guide us through this vale of tears, and after death receive us into glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

9.—PRAYER FOR A MEMBER OF A FAMILY ABOUT TO  
EMIGRATE TO A FOREIGN LAND.

O LORD, thou art the ruler and the governor of the universe. All things are in thy hands, and thou disposest of them at thy pleasure. Thou rulest over the dry land, and the sea ; and thou protectest thy creatures, who are on them both.

We come before thee now to solicit thy blessing on those of us about to go to a foreign land. Thou art, in thy providence, causing us to part for a short time, perhaps for ever ; give us strength to bid farewell. Thou who holdest the winds and the waves in thy hand, to thee would we commit those who are now about to depart. Guard them amidst the dangers and perils of the ocean. As they behold thy wonders in the mighty deep, may their thoughts be led from nature up to nature's God ; and do, we earnestly pray, carry them in safety to their destination ; and may they have good cause to magnify and bless thy holy name, by reflecting on all the ways which thou, their God, hast led them.

O Lord, we weep, because we must part. Cheer us with the hope, that after a few short years we may again meet, perhaps on earth ; and if not here, may we meet around the throne in heaven. We glory in the thought, that we have the same throne of grace to which we can approach, and the same ear to hear our requests. May each of us come daily to this throne, though separated by distance, to supplicate thy blessings for one another ; and may our prayers be accepted by thee.

Now, O our God, be with us. Grant us forti-

tude to bid each other farewell. Be our God and guide here, and hereafter our portion, and exceeding great reward. We linger at the family altar ; perhaps we may never kneel together again, where we have knelt so often in past times, and where we have experienced refreshings from thy presence.

Wipe away our tears, and calm our troubled breasts. Hear us, we beseech thee, for the sake of Him whom thou hearest always. Amen.

10.—PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS FOR AN ABUNDANT HARVEST.

O LORD, we adore thee as the God of Providence, as well as the God of grace. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth and waterest it ; thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water ; thou preparest their corn, when thou hast so provided for it ; thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly ; thou settlest the furrows thereof ; thou crownest the year with thy goodness ; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness ; and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks ; the valleys also are covered over with corn.

We would desire to offer up unto thee, O Lord, our most grateful thanks for the goodness of this season of the year, and especially for the rich and abundant harvest with which thou hast blessed us. Thou hast given us sufficient for seed to the sower, and bread to the eater. Thou art ever answering our prayer, and giving us, day by day,



our daily bread. We rejoice that we are thy dependent creatures; and that the God of Providence is our God.

May this renewed token of thy favour to us, make us more grateful, and also to serve and love thee more ardently. Thou, in thy just displeasure, often sendest famine and dearth, but thou hast given us a plenteous harvest. Forbid, Lord, that we should ever receive the blessing, and yet neglect the hand that bestows it. But grant that we may love thee in sincerity and in truth, and receive the blessings with grateful hearts, because we love him, whose all-bountiful hand bestows them.

Do thou, O Lord God, continue to us from year to year, we earnestly pray thee, an abundant harvest, so that the poor may be fed, and the hungry filled.

And we earnestly pray, that thou wouldst likewise continue to bless us with an abundance of the bread of life, that our souls might not be in hunger or want.

Accept, O Lord, of our thanks. Hear us graciously, and love us freely, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## CLOSET PRAYERS.

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### SABBATH MORNING.

O LORD, my God, I bow at thy footstool on this, the morning of another day of the Son of Man, to return thee my grateful thanks for thy providential care and kindness to me, during the past week and night, and that I am now permitted to come before thee in circumstances of health and comfort. I thank thee, O Lord, for the institution of the Sabbath. I feel how much I need it to recruit my body, which is weakened by the business of the past week ; but more especially that my soul may rest, and that I may ascertain how far it has progressed in the divine life, and in the attainment of divine knowledge. I hail the Sabbath morning, as it brings to my remembrance the glorious truth of my Redeemer having burst the bands of death, and triumphed over it. Do thou enable me, O Lord, ever to treasure up in my memory the facts of his death and resurrection, and to draw from them all that life-giving comfort and hope, which they are intended and calculated to afford. May I ever look forward, with joyful anticipation, to the time when I shall, through him, conquer death, and when this corruptible body shall be raised, glorified like to his own body, and re-united to my soul, shall be for

ever blessed. I thank thee, O Lord, for this glorious hope, sufficient to bear me up through life, to cheer and console me in the midst of affliction, and to rob death of his sting, and the gloomy grave of its terrors. But keep me ever humble, Lord,—ever bending at the cross. I am a poor sinful worm, but thou hast by thy grace, made me an heir of glory. All I have is thine. There is nothing I possess, but what has been bestowed by thine all-bountiful and gracious hand. Thou hast pardoned me, for Christ's sake, and made me to taste of the sweetness of thy love; and all thou askest in return for these, are my confidence and love.

Go with me, I earnestly beseech thee to thy house of prayer this day; enable me there to realize thy presence, and to find that it is no vain thing to wait upon God. Call in all wandering thoughts,—and may the world and the world's cares be banished from my mind, so that I may enjoy a rich foretaste of the Sabbath, which is above. And grant, Almighty Father, that each Sabbath, as it approaches, may find me becoming holier, happier, and humbler,—growing more and more meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Pour down, O my God, the richest of thy blessings on the Church of which I am a member. May grace, mercy, and peace be with all its members; and may they evince to the world, by their holiness and consistency, that they have indeed been with Jesus. Abundantly bless my beloved Pastor; bless him in his work and in his flock. May his own soul be watered by the dews of thy heavenly grace, so that he may water ours. May he experience in a large measure all the joys of thy salvation; and may he ever feel thy hand

around him, supporting and assisting him, in leading sinners to the Saviour. May he ever continue to preach Christ and him crucified. And grant, O Lord, that he may have many souls for a crown of joy and rejoicing, on the day when thou makest up thy jewels.

Do thou grant thine effectual blessing, O Lord, on thy word, wherever it will be faithfully proclaimed this day: may it not be as water spilt upon the ground, which cannot be taken up again; but may it be the means of awakening and arousing many a careless and thoughtless sinner from his state of indifference, to the knowledge of his awfully dangerous and perilous condition; and cause him to flee from the wrath to come, to Christ who stands with open arms, ready to receive and bless him. And grant that it may also be the means of building up and establishing thy people in their most holy faith,—cheering many whose hearts are downcast, and healing the wounds of those that have been bereaved.

Hasten the happy time, O Lord, when the glad tidings of salvation shall be spread throughout the whole earth: when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever. Bless the efforts that are being made for the accomplishment of this great end; and may all the obstacles that have hitherto opposed its dissemination be broken down; and instead of proving obstructive, may they rather prove conducive to the extension of that which they sought to limit and destroy.

And now, O Lord, abundantly bless thine own people. Bless the household of faith,—all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. Meet with those who may be prevented from

waiting on thee in thy courts, from relative or personal affliction. May they find that Jacob's God is an everywhere present God, and may their meditation on thee be sweet. Hear me, O Lord, I beseech thee,—pardon and bless me, for I ask every mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

### SABBATH EVENING.

GRACIOUS GOD, I would now, on the evening of thine own day, seek thy blessed presence. All praise be unto thee, that thou hast so freely invited poor and unworthy sinners to hold communion and fellowship with thee; and hast given so many great and gracious promises, not only of thy willingness to hear, and answer, but also of thine aid in enabling me to ask. Lord, fill me now with an exalted sense of thy great condescension, in permitting so unworthy and unprofitable a being as I am to hold converse with thee; and grant, blessed God, that the Holy Spirit may direct and hallow all my thoughts, when now I draw near unto thy presence.

Again hast thou, in thy sovereign grace and love, permitted me to enjoy the privileges of another Sabbath day, and O, may I now, at its close, unbosom myself before thee; and solemnly enquire, in thy holy presence, how far I have come short in thy service, and how far I have profited by the unspeakable privileges I have this day enjoyed. O Lord, thou who knowest all things, knowest also how formal and carnal even my best services are,—how cold and languid my affections to thee,—how wandering and worldly my thoughts; and this day, alas! is not to be excepted in these

things from those that have gone before. How little, Lord, have I realized this day of rest as a true spiritual rest,—as a holy rest with thee from the turmoil of the world, and the cares of this life, and how little have I valued, as it became me to do, those green pastures and peaceful waters where thou invitest thy flock to rest with thee. And, O Lord, if I am sensible to myself of shortcomings in thy service this day, in that I have not duly kept a day holy unto the Lord, how much greater in number and in aggravation must my transgressions appear unto thee, who dost know even the half-formed thoughts and movings of my soul? Thou hast sent thy light and thy truth, to be guides unto me; and many opportunities and advantages thou hast also given, whereby I might have been led to the knowledge of thee, and of that way of life, which thou hast opened up in thy Son. But, O Lord, how little has thy word come home to me as light and truth; and how listlessly have I participated in those opportunities thou hast given me; above all, how little has the unconceivable love of Jesus affected me, though it be a love which brought him from heaven's glory to reproach and death, that he might save me from the coming wrath.

But, O Lord, merciful and long-suffering, enter not into judgment with me, because of my shortcomings and my sins; for thy great mercies' sake pardon the contempt for thy word and ordinances, of which I may have this day been guilty; and grant, I humbly entreat thee, that neither, may prove unto me a savour of death unto death, but through, the blessing of the Spirit, a savour of life unto life.

Grant, O God, thy rich blessing on the word.

O may it be unto me as the rain that cometh down from heaven which waters the earth, and maketh it fruitful ; let it not, O Lord, return unto thee void ; but, by the rich blessing of the Holy Spirit, may it be instrumental in effecting and carrying on a work of grace in my soul ; and making me perfect in every good word and work. Forbid that I should read and hear thy word in vain ; but may each opening thereof give light ; and sanctify me, Lord, through thy truth ; thy word is truth. And as I have received how I ought to walk, so help me, Lord, to walk more worthy of thee, unto all well-pleasing, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.

Do thou, O Lord, in thy good pleasure, build up the walls of Jerusalem. O may all thy saints be nourished and quickened by their waiting on thee this day ; and now, Lord, whilst the Sabbath eve brings them into social and secret intercourse with thee, may the sacred influence of the Holy One be shed on each soul, that their fellowship may indeed be with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, I would entreat thee in behalf of them that know thee not. In mercy, and O for thy Son's sake, snatch them from impending destruction, and make them monuments of thy sovereign grace and love. O hasten, Lord, thine own good time, when all men shall know and seek thee ; when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of thee, the Lord, as the waters cover the channels of the sea.

And now, Lord, would I commit my soul to thee ; and the souls of all near and dear unto me. O forsake me not, and forsake them not, but be our God even until death. O Lord, abundantly

pardon all that thou seest amiss in me, and especially the sins of my holy things ; give ear unto the voice of my supplications ; and return me an answer in peace, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer. Amen.

### MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD GOD, in the multitude of thy tender mercies, I am again permitted to lift up my heart to thee. Enable me this morning to praise thee, and to tender unto thee heartfelt gratitude. Thy good hand hath been upon me ; and thou hast been my preserver and upholder all my days. Whom have I in heaven, O Lord, but thee ; and may I be enabled to say, there is none in all the earth that my soul desires besides thee.

As thou hast been graciously with me, to watch over me during the past night, so, Lord, do thou be present with me now, that I may, for a little time, hold sweet fellowship with thee, ere I am called to the duties of this day.

What am I, or what have my fathers before me been, that thou shouldst be so gracious unto me ; for, O Lord, thou knowest how often and how grievously I have offended thee. In thought, word, and deed, have I broken thy holy law, and still do I daily and hourly come short of its sacred requirements. But I bless and praise thee, gracious Father, that notwithstanding the many provocations I have offered unto thee in days past, yet thou art still holding out to me pardon and acceptance, through Jesus, thy Son. Look on Him, Lord ; and see each and all of my sins and shortcomings punished in Him, and wash-



ed out by His shed blood. Lord, I believe in His all-sufficient atonement ; help thou mine unbelief.

I would remember, Lord, this morning, the unspeakable privileges of the past day,—the blessings of thy holy Sabbath ; and may I ever be able to feel that a day spent in thy courts is better than a thousand spent in the tents of sin. Grant, heavenly Father, that as I journey onward in this, my earthly course, from one day of rest unto another ; and as each comes laden with its blessings, and quickly flies into the past eternity, I may be found going on from strength to strength, until at last I appear perfect before the Lord in Zion. But, Lord, while I recall, with grateful remembrance the privileges and blessings of thy day, may I also feel how great the responsibilities are under which I am laid. As thou hast graciously pointed out to me, Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, so, O Lord, do thou strengthen me mightily by thy grace, that I may cleave unto Him, and counting not myself to have already attained, neither to be already perfect, may I, forget those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things that are before, press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. O grant, Lord, that by my walk and conversation in the world, I may give no cause to thine enemies to blaspheme ; but may my light so shine before men, that they, seeing my good works, may glorify thee, my Father in heaven. May I, for thy glory, abound in all the graces of the Spirit ; may I add to faith, virtue ; and to virtue, knowledge ; and to knowledge, temperance ; and to temperance, patience ; and to patience, godliness ; and to godliness, brotherly kindness ; and to brotherly kind-

ness, charity ; so that, these things being in me, and abounding, I may be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And grant, blessed God, that in following after the Lord Jesus, I may like him, be meek and humble, ever ready, after having done all, to say, I am an unprofitable servant.

And now Lord, as I am about to engage in the duties of another week, may thy hand be about me still, to preserve me from sin ; from falling under the power of temptation ; from danger, disease, and every other evil.

O Lord, I would desire to be prepared for whatever thou, in thy providence, hast prepared for me ; and with the simplicity of a little child, to say, Father, thy will be done.

Grant, O Lord, that in all I do, I may glorify thee, and use for the same end all the faculties and endowments wherewith thou hast blessed me. And whatever blessings I would ask for myself, I pray thee also to shower down on all for whom I ought to pray, on all my friends, and all connected with me, by whatever tie ; perfect thou all that concerns us ; and lead us at last to the life everlasting.

Hear me now, gracious Father ; and answer me ; and accept of me, through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### MONDAY EVENING.

MY Father, who art in Heaven ; hallowed be thy name ; thy kingdom come. O Lord, thou art indeed a God of mercy and of love, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. Who is a God like unto

thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders ! The gods of the heathen are dumb idols ; but thou art the Creator of the heavens, and of the earth, and sittest ruling, directing, and guiding the affairs of this vast universe. Nothing can evade thine all-seeing eye. All my thoughts are known to thee, before either they assume the form of language or are uttered. O heavenly Father, do thou impress upon my mind, more deeply than ever, that thou, God, ever seest me, and art perfectly acquainted with the desires and thoughts of my heart. Whatever of sin has mingled with my thoughts this day, do thou pardon ; and do thou keep my desires from being too firmly fixed on the world. I confess, O Lord, with deep contrition, that I have often neglected to perform those duties which thou hast enjoined, and often taken pleasure and delight in doing those things from which thou hast commanded me to abstain. I feel still a hankering after the world, and the world's vanities. I have still a liking for the society and comforts of earth ; and I often feel, that I could live here always, forgetting that I am but a stranger and pilgrim, travelling to my Father's house above. Make me to possess more of the pilgrim's character, and the pilgrim's spirit ; to be less allured by the glittering tinsels of a day ; and to have my eye more intensely fixed upon the crown of righteousness which thou hast promised to give to all thy faithful followers. May the bright hope of receiving that crown at last, lead me to still greater vigilance of heart and conduct ; and to have more devotion and zeal in thy work. Make me more like thee, to be holy and meek as my Saviour. Thanks be to thy name, Almighty Father, for the Saviour, who died on

the cross, that I might live and reign with him, for ever and ever. Teach my heart how to praise thee. I feel how feeble my expressions are. Thy love is boundless and infinite, in saving a sinner such as I am, from everlasting death. Thou hast taken away my hard and stony heart, and hast implanted within me a new heart, full of love to Christ. O to love him more, and to serve him better ! O my Saviour, what would I have been without thee, I would have been ignorant of the plan of mercy,—a poor miserable soul without peace, without hope, without God, for the world can yield none of these things ; and with a vague wish that perhaps death might terminate my existence, and my sorrows, and that I might at last find peace in the rest and silence of the grave. But thanks be unto God for the gospel, which has brought life and immortality to light through Christ ; and that that gospel has been fraught with so many blessings to my soul. Teach me to evince the sincerity and depth of my gratitude, by my increasing love to Christ and his commands. How gentle are thy commands, O my Saviour ! Thy love constraineth me to all things : Make me ever an object of thy love ; and when I have accomplished all thy purposes here, do thou receive me into glory.

Bless, O Lord, all my relations and friends with the spiritual and temporal blessings of which thou knowest they stand in need. Be with me this night, O Lord. May my sleep be sweet and refreshing. Blot out all my sins ; and accept of me, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God ! Thou art glorious beyond all praise, and admiration ; and thou art so infinitely happy in the boundless perfections of thine own nature, that thou canst derive no advantage from my imperfect services. I confess, O God, that I am utterly unable to comprehend or sufficiently to admire and celebrate thy glory. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast touched my soul with a lively sense of thy glory. I will praise thy name, O Lord ; for it is good. In God, will I rejoice. In God, have I put my trust. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary. Who is a God like unto thee ? Thou art the God that doest wonders ; thou hast declared thy strength among the people. Thou hast with thine own arm redeemed thy people.

I acknowledge myself utterly unworthy to come into thy sacred presence in the attitude of prayer, or to receive the smallest blessing at thy hands ; but thou hast graciously, for Christ's sake, not only invited me to draw near to thee, but even hast upbraided me for the limited character of my petitions, saying, Hitherto have ye asked nothing in Christ's name ; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

I adore thee, O God, for the incarnation of thine own Son ; and for the unbounded love which thou art still manifesting towards the sinful children of men. Look upon his atonement as the satisfaction for my sins ; and by his power, may the power of my iniquities be subdued.

Make me, O Lord, deeply penitent and humble for my sins. I entreat thy gracious favour in

Jesus Christ, for the pardon of them. I beseech thee to give me a right understanding of the urgent need which I have of a Saviour, and of all those things which he hath done and suffered, and is still doing, in order to cleanse my guilty and polluted soul, and to enjoy thy favour. My sole dependence is upon thee ; my hope of success is wholly in thee ; help, Lord, or I perish ; stretch forth thy powerful arm to my sinking soul.

I do most humbly beseech thee to be present with me in all my ways, and continually to influence my mind with thy grace and Spirit, and to strengthen my faith. Do thou, by the mighty power of thy grace, excite in me, and enable me faithfully to perform, what I have resolved to do.

Blessed be thy name that thou hast conquered me by thy love : and I resign myself to thee with a cheerful heart. I am entirely thine ; I am thy servant, truly I am thy servant ; and in this little I glory, more than in all the honours of the world. In thee I am blest, and in the light of thy countenance I rejoice more than in all the joys and pleasures of this state. Possess my heart, which opens itself to thy gracious influences, with such a strong and vigorous love to thee, as may raise me above all earthly things. And when by thy grace and assistance, I have perfectly conquered the corrupt nature within me, and the temptations without me, and am arrived at the state of everlasting triumph, I will lay all my victories at thy feet, and with palms in my hand, and Hallelujahs on my lips, I will celebrate thy praises throughout eternity.

Do thou, O Lord, I entreat thee, lead me this day in the way everlasting. Uphold me, I beseech thee, according to thy word. Be my God, and the

God of all my friends, and of all whom I should remember in thy presence. And all that I ask is for Christ's sake. Amen.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and ever adorable Jehovah, I give thee thanks, that at the conclusion of another day of my earthly being, I am permitted in thy good providence, to approach before thy footstool, seated as thou art upon a throne of grace. Help me to draw near unto thee with a true heart, and in full assurance of faith, believing that thou art, and art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.

Bestow upon me thy good Spirit, as a spirit of grace and supplication,—that the desires of my heart may be enlarged in this hallowed exercise—that I may find it good to draw near to thee—and that I may have sweet experience of holy communion with thyself. Touch my lips as with a live coal from off thine altar. Breathe on me, that I may receive the Holy Ghost; and that I may order my speech before thee. In name of thy dear Son, I give thee praise for the merciful preservation of the day,—for the bounties and comforts which thou hast so kindly and so freely given to me, one of the most unworthy of thy creatures. Write a law of gratitude on my heart, O my God, for all the tokens of thy temporal favour, where-with thou art blessing me from day to day; and may I never cease to call upon my soul to be stirred up within me, to bless thy holy name, at the remembrance of thine unceasing loving-kindnesses. Ever may it be mine to adore thee, more

especially, O my God, for those manifestations of thy great and glorious character which thou hast given in thy blessed word, as the God of grace, the God of peace, and the God of love. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast exhibited the exceeding riches of thine everlasting love towards sinners of the human race, in the unspeakable gift of thy dear Son whom thou didst send, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. May all my sins be forgiven me, for his name's sake; and may the short-comings of my service this day, and all that thy pure eyes have seen amiss in thought, in word, or deed, be pardoned. May the blood of sprinkling cleanse all my impurity.

Bestow upon me, in an enlarged measure of the enlightening, quickening, purifying, and saving operations of thy Holy Spirit, that I may be led into the knowledge of all thy holy will; and ever yield unto thee a true and enlightened obedience; that my soul may grow in grace, and be adorned with all the beauties of holiness; that I may be more fitted for serving thee, on earth, and more prepared for the enjoyment of the inheritance of the saints in light.

I would cast myself upon thy care, O thou who carest for me; and who hast said, that thou wilt never leave nor forsake them that put their trust and confidence in thee. Be thou my God and guide, and protector this evening, and throughout what remains of my earthly pilgrimage. Bless abundantly with the tokens of thy love, all whom I should bear upon my spirit before thee at a throne of grace. Bless my friends and relations, the poor, the distressed, and the dying, and the whole race of man. Give ear, O



God, to this the voice of my supplication. Send an answer in peace, in the name, and for the sake of thy dear Son. And to thee the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, I would ascribe all praise, and honour, and glory, now and ever. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

HEAVENLY FATHER, I thank thee, that thou hast again permitted me to bow before thee, to bless and to adore thy holy name for thy long-suffering kindness towards me. Early was I cast upon thy care, and thou hast never ceased to sustain and protect me. Since reason dawned upon my mind, every day and hour has made me to experience something of thy loving-kindness to me. Grant, O Lord, that by my cheerfulness, devotion, and submission to thy will, I may shew the gratitude with which I receive these blessings. I thank thee for the health of mind and body which I enjoy. Teach me, O Lord, to use these aright, and to estimate properly their value. Teach me to do it, when in the possession and enjoyment of them ; so that, when deprived of them, though I may learn more truly their value, I may not have to upbraid myself with having either misused them or trifled with them.

Bless me now, O my Father. Without thy blessing there is no true enjoyment. Sanctify my soul, and make me more wholly thine own. Implant in my heart, more abundantly, the spirit of Christ ; I long to possess all my heart can hold of his spirit. It turns this wilderness into a bright foretaste of heaven, and changes afflictions and trials into expressions of paternal love. Oh, to

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be more like Christ—holy, meek, forgiving ! May He, O Lord, be my only model for imitation ; and may I never rest satisfied until I attain to the perfect stature of manhood in Christ Jesus. Wean my affections more from earth ; for they are too closely linked to it ; and set them upon heaven, and the things of heaven. Where the treasure is, there will the heart be also. Teach me then to lay up all my treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can corrupt, and where no thief can break through to steal ; and then death, when it comes, instead of parting me from it, shall put me into the possession of it. Teach me to be more heavenly minded ; to think less of the trifles of time and sense ; and to let eternity and heaven exercise their due importance and weight upon my mind. Teach me to live with eternity in view, and although I neither understand nor comprehend it, enable me so to live, that, when the messenger comes, he may find me at my post, and that I may render my account with joy, and not with grief.

Bless all my friends and companions, as thou seest they respectively and severally require. Enable those who are thine, to live near thee, to walk with thee. Keep them from the evil which is in the world, and in all the temptations of Satan, do thou make a way of escape for them. May they ever feel, that it is grace, and grace alone, that maketh them to differ from the children of the world ; and that it is by thy grace they are what they are. But if there are any among them, who are yet strangers to thee, do thou lead them to thyself. Shew them the beauty of holiness, and incline their hearts after thy ways. Soften their hard and stony hearts, subdue their

obstinate wills, and humble their pride of heart. May they never give rest to their eyes, nor slumber to their eyelids, till they have found a place for God, a habitation for the Holy One of Israel.

Bless, with the choicest of thy blessings, thine own people. Cheer and console such as are in affliction by the consolations of thy Holy Spirit, and the gracious promises of thy blessed word; and enable them, in the midst of their troubles, to exclaim with joyful confidence, we know whom we have believed, and are persuaded that he is able to keep that which we have committed unto his trust, till that day. Be very near to those who are on the verge of the eternal world. May their hope be good, being well-grounded; and their faith firm and sure, resting on the rock of ages.

And now, O Lord, what wait I for; my longing eyes are towards thee. Bless me this day, and grant that whatever I do, may be all to thy glory, and for my everlasting benefit. Hear my requests, and answer me above, what I can either ask or think, for Christ's sake. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MOST blessed, and most gracious God! Thou art seated in heaven, and art completely happy in thyself, and altogether independent of thy creatures. Who is like unto thee, Almighty in power, and yet abundant in mercy, of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, yet long-suffering towards offenders.

O Lord, when I consider thy greatness, excellency, goodness, and long-suffering patience, my own unworthiness, and wicked ingratitude, I can-

not but admire thy free grace, and unbounded mercy, that I am not consumed and cut off in my sins. But when I reflect on thy gracious dealing with me, in not visiting me with deserved wrath, but bestowing upon me undeserved mercies, I cannot but acknowledge, that thy love is the wonder and astonishment of Angels and men. And now, O Lord, thou art offering thy Son to save sinners, and in, and with him, willing to bestow all the glorious privileges which he died to procure, even pardon of sin, reconciliation with thee, the graces of thy Spirit, and glory in eternity. Do thou, O Lord, help me to believe on him, for thou hast said that those who believe on him, shall not perish, but have life eternal. Do thou, O Lord, grant me sincere repentance for sin; and may I mourn over my iniquities, looking to him whom I have pierced. O that I may love him who loved me so as to give himself to the death for me, that I might live. O that I may evince my love and affection, by obedience to thy commandments, hating sin, contemning the world, and mortifying the flesh. May I therefore trust in thee, the Lord, with all my heart, believing that thou art able to do what thou wilt, wise to do what is best, and good, according to thy promise, to do what is conducive to the true felicity of those that love and serve thee. Be thou my light and strength, and quicken me in the path of holy obedience.

But, O Lord, the way of man is not in himself; and I feel that it is not in me, who walketh, to direct my steps. I would, therefore, seek thy counsel. Bless and preserve me in my going out, and my coming in. May the Angel of thy presence save me from all sin and danger.

Accept my praises and thanksgivings for all thy mercies vouchsafed me in this life, and for the hopes of a better life beyond the grave.

To thy gracious protection I commit myself, and all my interests, during the silent watches of the night. Spare me, if it be thy blessed will, to see the light of a new day ; and as my day is, so let my strength be. And all I ask is for the sake, and through the intercession of Christ, my living head, to whom, with thee, and the Holy Spirit, one God, be glory, as it was, and is, and shall be evermore. Amen.

#### THURSDAY MORNING.

O GOD, thou art my God ; early will I seek thee. Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall give thee praise. I will bless thee, while I live : I will lift up my hands in thy name. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God ! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

O Lord, I acknowledge myself bound by many ties and obligations to praise and adore, to love and to serve thee ; for thou art the former of my body, and the Father of my spirit ; my constant preserver, and bountiful benefactor. Early was I cast upon thy care and goodness ; and mercy has hitherto followed me. O that I could justly estimate thy goodness, and shew forth thy loving-kindness. I confess, O God, that I was conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity, and that to my original guilt, I have added innumerable actual transgressions. The sins of my heart and life, of my childhood and youth, do testify against me.

Rebuke me not in thy wrath, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to thy mercy, remember thou me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Thou hast sent thine own Son to be the Saviour of sinners; and he that did no sin was manifested to take away sin. Save me, O my God, through him, by the virtue of his blood, by the efficacy of his Spirit, and by the power of his word: Save me, O God, or I am lost for ever. Enable me to embrace Jesus Christ, as he is offered in the gospel, to follow the pattern of his ways, and rely upon the merits of his death. Make me, I beseech thee, strong in faith. Let my heart retain thy words, and keep thy commandments, and live. Do thou enlighten me more and more with the knowledge of thyself; do thou strengthen me against the temptations that await me; lead me in the true and living way; make me faithful unto death, and give me a crown of life.

O Lord, I now resign myself to thee; take me, I beseech thee, under thy care and protection this day; preserve me from all evil, but especially from sin; and quicken me by the Spirit unto every good work, that so I may serve thee acceptably; and make it my meat and drink to do thy blessed will. Incline thine ear to my requests, O Lord, and accept of me, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

#### THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, I approach unto thee at this time in the name of Jesus Christ; and desire that for his sake thou wouldst blot out all my sins. I rest

solely on his finished work ; and I plead his merits as my only ground of acceptance with thee. I am nothing of myself. I have nothing that I can call my own, that I can offer to thee. I thank thee, O Lord, that thou requirest nothing from the sinner ; for he has not anything to offer ; and that thou bestowest thy pardon as a free unmerited gift. Thou, gracious and merciful Father hast given me Christ ; and the glorious hope of eternal life through him ; and all that thou askest in return is but my gratitude and love, and obedience to thy laws. O that my gratitude were deeper, and my love more fervent, and my obedience more perfect. O that I could love and praise thee as I ought. My heart shall sing thy praise on earth, and celebrate thy love in heaven. I have been guilty ; but I rejoice to believe that the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin ; and I hope it has washed me from the stains and consequences of sin, and has made me an heir of glory. O Lord, whom have I in heaven but thee ; and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. My flesh and my heart faileth ; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. It is good for me to draw near to God.

I return thee thanks, O heavenly Father, that thou hast shielded me from all danger this day, and hast again brought me home in safety and peace. I bless thee for the goodness thou hast made to pass before me this day. Make me a zealous and persevering Christian. Enable me to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset me, and let me run with patience the race that is set before me, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of faith ; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, de-

spising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I bless thee, O Lord, for the privileges which I enjoy in this highly favoured country, and for all the opportunities thou art affording me of attaining Christian knowledge. Enable me ever to bring all my stores of learning, and baptize them at the font of Christian truth, and consecrate them all to thy service. Grant, O Lord, that I may ever make thy word my daily study. May it be a light to my feet and a lamp to my path; and grant that, with all my getting, I may get understanding. Enable me ever to remember, that the soul, to be without knowledge, is not good. But do thou sanctify all knowledge to me, and grant that as my views become enlarged, and my acquaintance with thy word more profound, my conceptions of thy character and perfections, may be more clear and estimable. O teach me to fear thee more; and may my love to thee be more ardent.

Bless all those in whose welfare I feel interested; and those who are related to me by the ties of friendship and of family. May they sustain to thee the relationship of sons and daughters; and thou to them, that of Father and God. May they all have a personal interest in the Saviour, and a personal title to the crown and kingdom above.

Bless thine own people. I rejoice to know that none can pluck them out of thy hand; that thou keepest them in charge,—even as the apple of thine eye; and they shall not want: thou makest them to lie down in green pastures; and leadest them beside the still waters.

Take me, O Lord, under thy care and protection this night; and unto thy name be endless glory and praise. Amen.



## FRIDAY MORNING.

O BLESSED, glorious, and holy Lord God of hosts ! Thou art the high and mighty one who art from eternity ; thy kingdom is everlasting ; and thy dominion endureth for ever. Thou dwellest in the high and holy place, and with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit.

O Lord, I am a living monument of thy goodness ; and I am come this day to prostrate myself at the footstool of thy throne of grace, confessing and acknowledging, that I am a sinner, having transgressed thy law, not only ignorantly, but presumptuously ; sinning against knowledge, light, and conscience, notwithstanding all the great and undeserved mercies, both spiritual and temporal, that thou hast, in thy goodness, abundantly bestowed on me.

O God, blot out mine iniquities ; in my weakness, magnify thy strength, and the riches of thy free grace. Do thou subdue in me sin and corruption, strengthen and enable me to walk as thine own, and sanctify me in soul, body, and spirit. Lord keep me from all sin ; may I shun the least appearance of evil. To thee, O Lord, do I lift mine eyes, entreating that thou who art eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame, wilt open the eyes of my understanding ; and let me have a full view of the state of misery that sin has brought me into ; and of the need in which I stand of a Saviour, and of the worth, excellency, and all-sufficiency of my blessed Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Give me grace to believe in Christ, and to receive him as he is offered to me in the gospel. May I, by faith, freely and cheer-

fully give and resign myself to him, and gladly receive him, who willingly gives himself, and all the rich graces of the Spirit, to true believers. O that I may have faith, repentance, and love in exercise; that I may believe on him who is the author and finisher of my faith; and as I receive Christ, may I walk in him. May I derive strength from thee, the Lord of life, for without thee I can do nothing aright. Make thy grace sufficient for me; and perfect thy strength in my weakness. Let thy Spirit help my infirmities, and strengthen me to fight the good fight of faith; to strive against the sins that do most easily beset me; to walk more acceptably before thee in all the duties of righteousness and holiness. May I learn of Him, who is meek and lowly of heart, that I may find rest to my soul. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

Wherever I am, whatever I do, thou, O Lord, seest me. O keep me in thy fear all the day long. Lord, give me grace to keep always a conscience void of offence toward thee, and toward man. Teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart to wisdom. Give me grace to love my neighbour as myself, to do to all men, as I would they should do unto me; to love and honour my dear friends and relatives. Preserve them and me, O Lord, in thy favour and fear, increase and multiply upon us thy blessings continually; forgive us all our sins; prosper all our undertakings; further us with thy continual help in all our duties and devotions; and keep us in perpetual peace and safety this day and for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy dear Son, and our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all grace and consolation: To whom can I go but unto thee; thou only hast the words of eternal life; thou art God over all and blessed for ever. Heaven and earth are full of thy praise; for all thy creatures, to whom thy goodness extends, worship and adore thee, their great Creator, sovereign Lord, and merciful Father. All the creatures which thou hast made, none come so far short in duty as sinful man; and alas! I do acknowledge and confess that I stand chargeable before thee with innumerable and aggravated sins.

O my God, I come to thee at this time. I plead guilty, and cast my soul on thy mercy, through Christ Jesus. Thou hast proclaimed thyself the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth; forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, and thou hast sworn that thou delightest not in the death of sinners, but rather that they should repent, and turn unto thee, that they may live. Where can I find life, but in the Lord Jesus Christ, who hath the words of eternal life—yea, who is the word and life itself. I desire to humble myself before my God for all my sins and iniquities, and in a special manner for the sins of my holy things. O that they may be laid upon the High Priest of my salvation. And now, O Lord, being fully convinced of thine all-sufficiency, as able to save to the uttermost all that come unto thee; and of thy merciful and gracious desire to save sinners, of whom I am the chief. I come unto thee that I may find rest to my soul. I

accept of thy kind invitation and gracious offer ; and I come to drink of the water of life, that I may never more thirst, but after righteousness.

O blessed Jesus ! I know that thou art the Son of the living God, God equal with the Father in power and glory ; and that thou, taking our flesh on thee, didst become sin for us, who had no sin of thyself ; and suffering the most shameful, cursed, and painful death, even the death of the cross, and enduring the wrath of God, didst give satisfaction to Divine justice. I come unto thee ; salvation is only in, and by thee ; for there is no other name in heaven or on earth whereby it can be obtained.

And, ever blessed and glorious Redeemer, I resolve to be thine ; and do thou make me thine by regenerating grace. O Lord, be thou pleased to work in me a right frame and disposition of mind ; make me in every thing such as thou wouldst have me to be. I accept of thee in all thy mediatorial offices, as my High Priest, by whom I expect life and salvation ; as my Prophet to instruct me ; and as my King and Lord to reign in, and rule over me. Lord, strengthen and increase my faith. I believe, Lord help my unbelief. Fill my heart with love to him, who loved me, and gave himself for me. O fill me with all the graces of the Spirit. May I find more satisfaction and pleasure in the light of thy countenance, than in all the pleasures of the world.

Bless all my beloved friends and relatives. Grant that they may be among the happy number of thy redeemed people. May they be sealed by the Holy Spirit of adoption, and loved with an everlasting love. May thy cause prosper in the earth, and thy name be known among all nations.

Let me lie down and rest this night under thy care and protection ; grant me quiet and refreshing sleep ; and may I arise in the morning with fresh vigour for the duties of life, and with a heart unreservedly devoted to thy service.

Hear my prayers, forgive my sins, and accept and bless me, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. Amen.

### SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD, thou art the Creator of the heavens and of the earth ; the Father of lights, with whom there is neither variableness nor shadow of turning. Thou art from eternity to eternity the same. Thou art seated on thy throne, in light which is inaccessible and full of glory. The heavens are not clean before thee, and thou chargest the pure intelligences that surround thee with folly ; and how can I, a poor sinful worm, approach thee ? Glory be to thy name, for that new and living way which thou hast opened up through the rent veil of Christ's flesh for sinners ; and it is by that way that I would now seek to approach thee.

I bless thee, O heavenly Father, that thou hast watched over me during the silent hours of the night, and raised me up to see the light of another day in health and peace. The evening teacheth me thy faithfulness, and the morning sheweth forth thy loving-kindness. Often have I departed from thee and forgotten thee, but thou hast never forsaken me, nor overlooked me. Thou art ever blessing me, although I am unworthy of the least of thy mercies ; but I rejoice to know, that he is worthy who died and rose again. I

would adore thee as the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and bless thee that thou didst so think on fallen man as to give Him up to the death, that they might have eternal life. O infinite love ! who can comprehend it. I bless thee, that thou hast, by thy grace, made me a partaker of that love, and to taste of the sweetness of pardon. O may it ever be mine to enjoy the blessedness of that man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, and unto whom thou, the Lord, imputest not iniquity. I feel how great a debtor I am to grace. It was grace, that led me first to the cross : it is by grace, that I am what I am : it is grace, that has brought me thus far on in my heavenward journey, and I would trust that grace, till I appear before thee in heaven.

Enable me, O Lord, ever to live near to thee ; for I feel my happiness only commensurate with the nearness to which I live to thee. Enable me ever to live in the atmosphere of prayer, and feel my whole character becoming more and more assimilated to thine, by its refining and elevating influences. O that I might breathe more of the atmosphere of heaven. Teach me, O Heavenly Father, to live as one whose whole heart is in heaven ; as one who is but a stranger and a pilgrim here, travelling to a better land. Keep me, I beseech thee, from being led away by the vanities of the world ; and deliver me from the snares and temptations of Satan. Enable me, while I live in the world, to live above it ; to live in thee, by thee, and for thee, and grant also, that at last, I may live with thee in glory. I thank thee, O Lord, for the good hope, through grace, which thou hast given me. I thank thee for what peace of mind I have enjoyed since first I was led

to trust in thee ; do thou increase and deepen it. Make me more wholly thine own, and more devoted and consecrated to thy service.

I bless thee, O Lord, for the revelation of thy character and will which thou hast given in the Scriptures ; that thou hast therein revealed thyself, not only as a God of justice, but also as a God of mercy and of love, not willing that any should perish, but that all might have eternal life. I thank thee for the gospel—the good news—which makes known a Saviour's love. May all the guilty sons of Adam soon hear them, and receive them as such, and be led by pure faith and sincere repentance to lay hold of Christ, as he is freely offered in the gospel.

Bless all my dear relatives and friends with the choicest of thy blessings. May they be all thy friends, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, and evincing by their consistent walk and conversation that they are indeed Christians.

Be with me, O Lord, this day ; fit me for all its duties, and enable me ever to carry about with me the distinct conviction, that I am thine, not only by creation, but by adoption, bought with the precious blood of the Redeemer, and made a son of that family of which he, Christ, is the elder brother. Defend me from all danger, and keep me from all sin. Hear these, O Lord, my imperfect supplications ; and when thou hearest, do thou answer and forgive, for my Redeemer's sake. Amen.

## SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD and Heavenly Father, I kneel at thy footstool at the close of another week, to confess

before thee all my sins ; and to ask forgiveness of them, for the sake of Christ. Thou hast said, in thy blessed word, if we confess our sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I feel that sin mingles with my most solemn thoughts and services, and that I need to come continually to the fountain which is opened for sin and uncleanness, that I might there be washed from all my sins. O Lord, if thou wert strict to mark iniquity against me, I could not answer for one of a thousand of my transgressions. But, blessed be thy name, thou hast not dealt so with me ; but in the midst of wrath hast remembered mercy.

Heavenly Father, accept of my grateful thanks for the manifestations of thy providence towards me during the week that is now terminating. I rejoice to know that thou art both the God of grace and of providence. Thou providest for the wants of all thy creatures, and all are sustained by thy bountiful hand. O that I could feel more my dependence upon thee. Thou art indeed a God of love ; and thou art ever making me to experience fresh tokens of it.

O Lord, I confess, with deep contrition of heart, that my progress in the divine life this week has been but little, and that little indifferently performed. O make me to run in the way of thy commandments, which is peace and joy, with alacrity. May I turn neither to the right hand nor to the left, but forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, press toward the mark for the prize of the high-calling of God in Christ Jesus. O that my thoughts were more abstracted from the trifles which surround me, and my soul and eye more



intently fixed upon thee. Enable me ever to bear in mind, that it is through much tribulation I must enter the kingdom of heaven. May I ever be found among the faithful soldiers of the cross, following my Saviour through good and through bad report. May I ever remember, that he bore the cross for me amidst all the insults of his persecutors. Teach me, O my Saviour, to be meek and lowly,—to take up thy cross, and ever follow thee.

Solemnize my mind, O Lord, I earnestly beseech thee, for entering aright on the services of the approaching Sabbath. May I enter upon them with my whole heart and soul, and ever experience their blessed and hallowing influences. Teach me to improve all the ordinances of thy house, and to rejoice in the way thou there makest thyself manifest to thy people. I would offer up the prayer of thy servant of old :—I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of sin.

Bless all thy ministers who will make known thy truth. May they come forth fraught with the blessings of the gospel of peace to their perishing fellow-men. Raise up a seed to serve thee, a generation who shall call thee blessed.

Bless all who are related to me by the ties of affection, with the richest of thy blessings. I leave them in thy hands. Be thou their God and their guide.

O Lord, hear my prayers. Whatever I have asked amiss do thou forgive, and what I have omitted to ask, and which thou seest me standing in need of, do thou graciously supply. Be with me and bless me this night, O Lord, and be my God and exceeding great reward, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## 1.—PRAYER TO BE USED BY AN AWAKENED SINNER.

O LORD, how can I approach thee, who art pure and holy, who dwellest in light which is inaccessible, and full of glory. Thou, O Lord, art the great and the terrible Jehovah. Thou measurest the waters in the hollow of thy hand ; and metest out heaven with a span ; and comprehendest the dust of the earth in a measure ; and weighest the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance. Before thee, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance. And yet, how often, alas ! times without number, have I taken thy name in vain, and set up my own rebellious will against the dictates of thy most holy law. I feel myself condemned by that law, and I feel miserable under its curse ; and the more I become alive to my awful condition, I tremble. I feel myself a poor, helpless, lost, perishing sinner ; and I cast myself upon thy mercy, imploring forgiveness of my innumerable transgressions for the sake of Christ. I feel myself sick, and tired of the service of sin and Satan ; but I tremble when I think where they are leading me. Snatch me, O Lord, as a brand from the burning. I deserve nothing but thine everlasting and eternal vengeance ; but thou, O Lord, hast said, that he that cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out ; and it is on this assurance, that I would now come unto thee, and plead Christ's finished work, as my only plea for pardon and reconciliation. I feel weary and heavy laden ; and thou hast invited such to come to thee ; and thou wilt give them rest. O God, forgive me,—thou who hast revealed thyself as a God of mercy

and love,—thou who takest no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but hast invited all to come unto thee, that they might obtain life, look down upon me, and forgive me a poor sinner. Christ died for sinners; and I am a sinner. Give me thy Holy Spirit to appropriate this to my own soul. Thou hast said, that the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. I would come to it, that my sins may be all blotted out. Forgive me, gracious God, for Christ's sake. The scheme of redemption was to save a ruined world. Save me, or I perish; lead me to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. I have nothing of my own. Too long have I satisfied myself, what I called my own righteousness, which I now see to be filthy rags. Too long has my pride of heart rebelled against receiving pardon as a free unmerited gift; but O! how unwise, how criminal my conduct. I now come, as a poor and helpless sinner, beseeching thee to forgive all my sins, and bless me for Christ's sake. I hate sin; teach me to have a perfect hatred of it; to view it as thou viewest it. O it was it which, when Christ was drinking the cup of thine indignation against it, drew from his agonized soul that heart-rending prayer, My God! my God! why hast thou forsaken me. Has it cost the Son of God so much; and yet I have rolled it as a sweet morsel under my tongue! Father, I leave it; but it has hardened my heart. Soften my heart by thy grace. The wages of sin is death; and I dread death,—I shudder at the thought of being eternally lost to thee, to hope, and to Heaven.

Give me faith to believe the gospel; so that I may be enabled to look up to thee, as reconciled

in Christ Jesus, not imputing unto me my sins and iniquities. I earnestly pant after that peace, which passeth all understanding,—the result of believing,—and to experience and enjoy it. Do not shut out my prayer from thee; for thou hast made known thyself, as a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. Thou art just; but I thank thee thou hast said, that thou art also the justifier of them who believe in Jesus. Send me an answer in peace, O my God. Clothe me in the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness, and pardon me for his sake. Amen.

2.—PRAYER TO BE USED BY A BACKSLIDING CHRISTIAN.

O LORD, wherewithal shall I draw near unto thee? Yet unto whom can I go but unto thee; for thou alone hast the words of eternal life? Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel,—most glorious art thou in thy holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Righteousness belongeth unto thee; but unto me confusion of face.

Suffer me, I humbly beseech thee, to have a view of thy holiness, that I may see how awfully I have offended; and that I may come before thee in the deepest self-abasement, crying out, Unclean, unclean, God be merciful to me a sinner. O Lord, how aggravated have been my transgressions! I have sinned against light, against knowledge, and against the clearest manifestations of thy love. I have been holding thy truth in unrighteousness, and therefore do I deserve to be beaten with many stripes. O Lord, how often, hast thou shewn me the way wherein I should walk; and yet I have trodden the paths of sin;

how often hath the bleeding Saviour, with outstretched and inviting arms, been brought before me, and I heeded not ; but have gone on opening afresh those wounds, and piercing anew his side, as if the agonies of Calvary were not enough.

I have resisted thee, thou blessed Spirit. I have been wilfully frustrating thy grace, stifling the still small voice within, and lending myself to the enemy. How successfully, alas ! hath he allured me from the stronghold of thy people, even the footstool of thy throne of grace. And how can I look unto thee, and confess that too often I have been his willing captive ? Having thus forsaken my own mercies, every evil hath followed. Now Lord, I am ashamed to confess unto thee, that which, alas ! I was not ashamed to commit before thee, that mine iniquities compass me round about, and in vain do I struggle, as a bird in the meshes of the fowler's net. O Lord, my sins have reached unto the clouds ; verily they are more in number than the hairs of my head ; and like the sands on the sea-shore, they cannot be numbered for multitude. I know not where to begin in making confession unto thee ; for I am wholly polluted ; and I have altogether departed from thee. I am inexcusable, O Lord, and there is nothing but misery in me ; nothing that thou canst look upon but with the most righteous abhorrence.

And yet, O most merciful God, in the midst of all my sin, and backsliding, thou has not forgotten me ; but thou hast kept thy hand ever around me ; thou hast given me anew each day thy mercies, while I have been turning these very blessings into idols ; and in bowing down before them, I

have wholly forgotten the God that gave them. Surely thy ways are not as man's ways, nor thy thoughts as his thoughts, else I should long ere now have been driven from thee, and consumed under thy just wrath. Gracious God, for thy great mercies' sake, look upon me in Him in whom thou seest no iniquity in Jacob, nor perverseness in Israel ; and do thou, merciful Father, seek thy unworthy servant, and bring me back to the Shepherd of my soul. Pardon, O Lord, my iniquity, for it is very great ; take not away the Holy Spirit from me ; but restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit. O may that blessed Saviour, whom thou, in thine infinite love, has sent to seek and save wandering and perishing souls, exercise his great power, in making intercession for me. See, O God, my shield, and look upon me in the face of thine own anointed. Deliver me from the guilt, the power, the pollution of my sins ; and protect me from the just punishment of all my iniquities. O wash me in that blood which taketh away all sin ; so, O Lord, shall I be clean from my great transgressions. Keep ever alive within me an humbling sense of my unhappy condition ; and not only now, but as long as I sojourn here, may I ever remember the awful peril into which a departure from thee has led me. O enable me now to cast myself wholly on thee, that my backslidings may be healed ; and give me, gracious God, to know the blessedness of the man whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered, and unto whom thou, the Lord, imputest not iniquity. O Lord, I would vow unto thee ; but it best becomes a worm like me to pray, that I may be enabled to lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily

beset me, and to run with patience the race set before me, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith. O may I remember, and, by thy Holy Spirit, be enabled to feel, that I am not my own, but bought with a price. May I feel, that my body is the temple of the Holy Ghost; and may I, therefore, be enabled to glorify thee in my body, and in my spirit, which are thine. I cast myself on thee, in the name of thy dear Son, who loved me, and gave himself for me; do thou sprinkle me, and I shall be clean; hold up my ways, that I may never again depart from thee; and do thou unto me according to thine infinite mercy, for Jesus, my Redeemer's sake. Amen.

3.—PRAYER TO BE USED BY PERSONS IN PREPARATION FOR  
THE COMMUNION.

ALMIGHTY Creator, and glorious Redeemer of thy people, thou against whom I have so grievously sinned, art giving me the prospect of being permitted to sit down at thy holy table. Fill my whole soul, O thou Holy One, with an overwhelming sense of thine awful holiness, lest I, at this time, instead of coming as a truly penitent and broken hearted sinner to my Saviour, should rush heedlessly into thy presence in going to thy holy ordinance. O Lord, who can contend with thee, if thou shouldst be angry; and yet against thee have I been contending all my days. But, Lord, if thou hadst not in thine infinite mercy restrained thine indignation, I should have been consumed by the breath of thy mouth; and I should now have been lifting up my eyes in that place where there is no mercy, and where

thou hast for ever ceased to be gracious. Help me now, most gracious God, to consider who thou art, and my own ways before thee. Thou alone art God ; but with deep self-abasement would I confess, that other Lords besides thee have had dominion over me ; and other things have I idolized and put in the place of thee, who, with a voice of thunder, didst say, Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. And, O Lord, even when I did turn to worship thee, how have I suffered that worship to be marred and tainted by sin, how low and earthly have been my views of thy glorious and infinite perfections ; and how often have I, a sinful worm of earth, regarded thee as even such a one as myself ! Thy great and dreadful name have I lightly esteemed, and O how often have I heard that holy name dishonoured by guilty worms of the dust ; and have neither uttered a word of rebuke, nor even felt a pang of grief, nor holy jealousy, for the honour of thee, the holy God ! Thy day have I not observed as it became me ; its holy rest has often been to me a burden, and its sacred exercises a weariness. O Lord, how guilty I am in this, as well as in every other duty to thee. And when I think of those precepts which thou hast given respecting my brethren around me in the world, I have cause to hide my face in grief and shame, prostrating myself in the dust before thee.

Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done all this evil in thy sight. Lord I would confess it, and humbly feel that thou wouldst be justified in condemning me. But besides my innumerable sins against thy holy law, I have also greatly, and most grievously sinned against the gospel of grace. O Lord, how long I altogether rejected thy offers



of salvation ; how frequently do I still look with coldness and indifference upon them ; and how slow am I to acquaint myself more fully with the gracious tidings thou hast sent ! I would confess and lament before thee, that neither am I awed by thine awful threatenings, nor melted by thy loving promises ; but often act and think as if there were no Judge and no Redeemer.

O thou omniscient God, all my sins are before thee. I cannot venture to enumerate them ; for they are more in number than the hairs of my head. Smite me not down most gracious God, as thou mightst justly do. O mingle not my blood with my sacrifice ; but help me, a guilty sinner, to receive, and believe that faithful saying, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, even the chief. Lord I come to thee, in terms of thine own invitation ; look upon me in the face of thy Son. O may my iniquities, which are so great, be all taken away ; and may I be enabled to enter anew, and as it were for the first time, into that gracious covenant, by which thou hast assured thy children of pardoning grace and glory. But, O Lord, free me not only from the just punishment of my sin, by accepting Jesus as my surety, but deliver me also from the power and consequences of sin. May the Holy Spirit be largely imparted to me, that all my affections and desires may be directed to thee ; and be thou graciously pleased to accept of the surrender I would now make of myself unto thee ; and though I be worthless and vile, yet thou canst make me all that thou wouldst have me to be.

Most gracious Father, I would render heartfelt thanks unto thee, for thy great condescension and love in permitting me to approach thee

through the holy ordinance of the Supper. O may I understand what is denoted thereby ; may I there see Jesus, the Lamb slain, by whose blood I am redeemed from everlasting wrath ; and realizing Him as my Saviour, may I love and adore Him,—resolving in thy strength, never again to leave Him, nor cease from following after Him. O may I approach the holy table with the deepest humility, and with the most earnest longings after Jesus. Lord, meet thou with me there ; and enrich the feast of remembrance with thy presence. Enable me, with the eye of faith, and love, to look up through the outward emblems to Him whose body was broken, and whose blood was shed for me ; but who now is exalted at God's right hand ; and still, though surrounded with glory unspeakable, doth yet remember his redeemed, and maketh intercession for them. Grant, O Lord, that I may receive in this precious ordinance, a large increase of grace. May I there receive of the children's bread ; and go forward bearing always more fruit to the praise and glory of thy grace. And may this Supper on earth, O Lord, be to me a blessed foretaste of that coming Supper, at which thou in thy glory, wilt visibly preside.

May the thought of that glorious feast, and the humble yet believing anticipations of the glories of an eternity with thee, and the hope of spending an eternal and unbroken Sabbath in heaven, and singing the new song unto Him, that redeemed me, and washed me in his blood, constrain me, even on earth, to walk with thee, glorying and rejoicing in God my Saviour.

O Lord, I put myself into thy hands ; do thou undertake for me, and fill my mind with suitable

and elevating thoughts. O keep back everything worldly, and all that would distract, that I may enjoy a season of sweet and sacred communion with thee.

Do unto me all that I need, and exceed all my requests, giving unto me, according to thy mercy and love, more than my heart can conceive. And unto thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## COMMUNION PRAYERS.

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FOR THE MORNING OF A DAY OF HUMILIATION.

O LORD, we desire to draw near to thee in a spirit of deep humility. This spirit it becomes us to cherish at all times ; for we are unworthy creatures, and are continually sinning against thee. But, having set this day apart for special humiliation and confession of sin, we pray that our minds may be brought into a state of accordance with our professed design. Give us the Spirit to enable us to see sin in the light in which it is represented in thy word. Impart to us clear views of thine own gloriously holy, and infinitely benignant character ; and let us see, that sin is a crime committed against thee, the greatest, the best, and most benevolent of beings. Give us a clear apprehension of thy law as holy, just, and good ; and may we now remember, that sin is the transgression of that law. May we be enabled to think of the privileges which thou hast conferred on us,—of the unwearied care which thou hast displayed towards us,—of the kindnesses which thou hast bestowed on us ; and when we think of all these things, help us to look back upon the past, and consider how we have acted towards thee. Lord, we have sinned from our youth. We have broken all thy commandments ; we have lived unmind-

ful of the Rock of our salvation ; we have not revered thy name ; we have broken thy Sabbaths ; we have profaned thine ordinances ; we have neglected thy salvation. But notwithstanding all this, thou hast not left us to perish in our sins ; thou hast so loved the world, as to send thine only begotten Son into it, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. But alas ! O Lord, we have often listened to this wonderful announcement with indifference, as if we had no concern with it. Our hearts are deceitful above all things ; they are desperately wicked ; they have led us astray from thee ; they have involved us in guilt ; and sunk us in pollution. Woe unto us, we are undone ! Our iniquities are gone over our heads ; and we cry, unclean ! We humble ourselves to the dust. But we go to the cross, and looking up to Him who died upon it, we cry, God be merciful to us sinners. O convince us of sin. Let us feel deeply, that though thou hast nourished and brought us up, as a father doth his children, yet we have rebelled against thee—that our whole head is sick, and our whole heart faint—that from the crown of our head to the soles of our feet, we are all wounds and bruises and putrifying sores, that have not been bound up, nor closed, nor mollified with ointment. We cannot stand before thee ; we deserve nothing but wrath. Our ingratitude is boundless. Our sins, personal and relative, are innumerable. Humble us. Take away the hard and stony heart out of our flesh, and give us hearts of flesh. Give us broken hearts, and contrite spirits. Help us to come with all our sins upon our heads to the Lord Jesus. We implore forgiveness for his sake. He is the Lamb of God,

that taketh away the sin of the world. It is on the ground of his atonement only, that we plead for, and expect forgiveness. Lord, for his sake, pardon all our iniquities. Wash us in his blood. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean. Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Create in us a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore unto us the joys of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy free Spirit. Seal the conviction of pardon on our souls. Strengthen our faith in the Redeemer. Help us to keep before our minds the purpose for which this day has been set apart ; and, to engage in those meditations and exercises which will tend to give us clearer views of the malignity of sin ; and of our own sinfulness, that we may exercise the grace of repentance ; so that it will not require to be repented of. Lord, we again cry for thy help. Undertake for us ; and these our confessions we now make before thee ; and these supplications we present, in the name of the Lord Jesus ; and for his sake, we pray that they may be accepted, and graciously answered. Amen.

FOR THE EVENING OF A DAY OF HUMILIATION.

O LORD, we come again to thy footstool, and now, when evening has drawn its curtain around us, we desire to be alone with thee. Help us, as in thy sight, to review the exercises and confessions of this day. It has been a day of humiliation, and we trust that we have been enabled, in some measure, to keep its purpose before our minds—that our confessions have been the expressions of our inward feelings—and that our

supplications for forgiveness have been sincere. Whatever there has been of genuineness and sincerity in the exercises of the day, we desire to thank thee for them, O Lord. It is of thine own wherewith we, at any time, serve thee. Not unto us therefore, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the praise.

But, O Lord, sin mingles with our best services ; and we have reason to acknowledge, that wert thou to enter into judgment with us for the sins of this day, we could not stand before thee. We have not had such clear views of the nature and malignity of sin as we ought. We have not seen our own sinfulness as it is represented in thy word. Above all, our hearts have not been broken on account of it as they should have been. And now, when we have spent a day professedly in humiliation before God, and in meditations and exercises designed and fitted to deepen that humiliation, we feel we have to make confession anew before thee. Our repentings require to be repented of. O thou most merciful God, thou that delightest in mercy, have mercy upon us. See God, our shield, look upon the face of thine Anointed. Thou hast sent thy Son into the world, that sin might be forgiven. Thou hast given Him up to sufferings and death, that a way might be opened up, that thou mightest be just in forgiving sin. We plead his work ; and pray that all the short-comings and iniquities of this day may not be permitted to rise up in judgment against us. For thy Son's sake, and for thine own name's sake, blot out our transgressions.

But having humbled ourselves before thee, and made confession, we pray that we may be enabled to forsake the sin of which we profess to have re-

pented ; may we remember that this is the evidence of our sincerity. Prevent us from deceiving ourselves or others with the appearances of contrition, while the reality is unfelt. Make us sincere, O God, and enable us to set a watch upon our tongues, lest we offend thee. O keep thou our hearts, lest we depart from thee. Our desires and feelings, our hopes and expectations, our affections and emotions, let them all be kept from leading us astray. Let not unbelief obtain dominion over us. Suffer not any temptation to overcome us. Help us to avoid all malice, and all guile, and hypocricies, and envies, and all evil-speaking, and may our behaviour be consistent with our profession. May we keep thy commandments, and delight in thy precepts. Help us in all time coming to discharge faithfully every duty we owe to thee, to the Church, to ourselves, and to our fellow-men. Thus may we evince our hatred of sin, and the genuineness of our repentance. O lead us in thy truth ; guide us in thy ways ; help us to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Keep us near his cross ; let us feel more the power of his love ; may we feel that we are not our own, but His.

We desire to commit ourselves to thy gracious keeping during the night ; give us the rest of thy Beloved. May thy blessing be imparted to all our friends. Forgive all our enemies. Bless thy Church. Prosper thy cause. Hear these our prayers, and accept of us, and all the services of this day of humiliation, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.



## FOR THE EVENING BEFORE A COMMUNION SABBATH.

WE adore thee, O thou eternal Majesty, as the living God—the God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—and our God, and Father in Him. It is in the name of the blessed Jesus that we draw near unto thee. Give us grace to worship thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear. We thank thee for the mission of thy Son into the world—for his atoning death; and for the redemption that there is for sinners through his blood. We thank thee for thy word, which reveals to us Jesus, and his salvation. Blessed be thy name for all those ordinances, the design of which is to exhibit to sinners the truth about Christ, that they may believe and be saved.

We rejoice, O Lord, that to-morrow is the rest of the Sabbath; and that we have the prospect, not only of going to thy house and engaging in the ordinary services of thy sanctuary, but also of commemorating the death of our Redeemer. We thank thee for this precious ordinance. But we would not rush heedlessly forward to its observance. May we have right views of its nature and design. May we be anxious to ascertain whether we have a right to go to the Lord's table; and whether we will be made welcome there. Lord, it is a feast of love; but those only who love, are invited, and will be made welcome. Help us to examine ourselves. Examine us, and prove us. Try our hearts and our reins. O let us not deceive ourselves in a matter of such infinite moment. May we remember, that if we go to the Lord's table without the wedding garment we will not be acceptable guests.

Help us to know, what is meant by being guilty of the body and blood of the Lord ; and may we be filled with trembling anxiety, lest we eat and drink judgment to ourselves. Lord, shew us what we are. Give us thy Holy Spirit to enable us to institute a faithful enquiry into our state and character before thee. Help us to know ourselves, and whose we are, and whom we serve. Lord open our eyes, and help us to devote a portion of our time this evening to the all-important work of self-examination. And if we have reason to believe, that we have fled for refuge to the hope set before us, and that through the faith of the truth we are united to Jesus, enable us to go to-morrow to thy table in the exercise of genuine faith. But how unfit are we for such a service ! Our views are clouded—our faith is weak—our hearts are hard and polluted—our love is cold. O, we are all unfit for the fellowship of such an ordinance ; and for the inestimable privileges which are implied in its observance. But, Lord, we come to thee ; and we would plead thy worthiness. Give us an unction from above. May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, take of the things of Christ, and shew them unto us. Strengthen our faith. Shed abroad the love of Christ in our hearts. Increase our humility, and self-abhorrence on account of our sins. Deepen our gratitude. Impart to us every grace of the new man. Invigorate them all—call them into lively exercise. Yea, stir up all that is holy within us ; and mortify and weaken all that is unholy and impure, that with glad and grateful hearts we may encompass thine altar ; and over the memorials of our Redeemer's broken body, and shed blood, renew our engagements to be His.

May thy Spirit be poured out abundantly upon thy servants, who are to conduct the services of thy sanctuary; may they be helped from on high; especially upon thy servant, our pastor, may thy choicest blessings rest. Supply him richly with thy grace, that he may minister abundantly to our souls, and to all our brethren. Bless all the members of the Church. May to-morrow be a good day to us all. Meet with us in all thine ordinances. May our fellowship be with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. May sinners be converted to-morrow, and saints built up in their most holy faith. Send now, O Lord, we beseech thee, send now prosperity. And unto thee, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be all praise now and for evermore. Amen.

FOR THE MORNING OF A COMMUNION SABBATH.

WE adore thee, O Lord, as the ever-living and true God—the uncreated, independent, and everlasting—the omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent—the Creator and preserver of all worlds, and of those who inhabit them. How great and glorious thou art! How greatly to be feared, and to be held in reverence by all who draw near to thee! Enable us to worship thee this morning with profound veneration and holy awe. We dare not approach thee in our own name; we plead nothing connected with ourselves; we are vile, guilty, and worthless. Our righteousness is as filthy rags; it cannot cover us; it cannot save us from condemnation; it cannot cancel our pollution. We come to thee in the name of Jesus,

who is worthy. With him thou art well-pleased, and pleased with all also that come unto thee by him. We plead his atonement and intercession ; and that in him thou wouldst see no iniquity in Jacob, nor perverseness in Israel.

We thank thee for the privileges which, through Jesus, we enjoy. Especially we thank thee for the Christian Sabbath, and that thou hast awaked us this morning to see the light of another day of the Son of man. This is the day which the Lord hath made ; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Impart to us right views of its nature and design. Bring our spirit into accordance with that design. May we be in the spirit on the Lord's day. May that spirit draw off our minds from the love, cares, and anxieties of the world.

May the glorious truths connected with the sufferings, death, and resurrection of the Redeemer, as intimately associated with this day, be brought to our recollection ; and may we meditate upon them until our hearts burn within us, and we be constrained to say, Bless the Lord, O our soul, and forget not all his benefits. May the love of Christ be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, so that our cold hearts may, this day, be warmed into love to Him who loved us.

We unite in giving thee thanks for the privileges of this day. We rejoice in the prospect of assembling with thy people in thy house, and joining with them in the observance of thine ordinances. We thank thee especially for the ordinance of the Supper, and for the prospect that we have this day of observing it according to thine appointment. May we have clear views of the nature and design of this sacred ordinance. May all the preliminary services, our praises, our

prayers, and the preaching of thy truth, be blessed for the enlightenment of our understanding, and for melting us into gratitude and love. O give us clear views of the Redeemer, in his person, character, and work ; guide us especially to Calvary. Let faith view him on the cross, suffering, dying for our redemption. Thus may we be prepared for taking into our hands the memorials of his broken body and shed blood. Guide us to thy table. There spread over us thy banner. Bestow upon us thy grace. May every sinful emotion and desire be mortified, and every grace of the new nature be strengthened and brought into exercise. May we be enabled to say, He loved us, and gave himself for us. May we be enabled to give ourselves to him in an everlasting covenant, never to be broken ; and feel, in our blessed experience, that thy house and thy table on earth are the preparatives for, and antipast of thy house and thy table above.

Bless all our brethren who may assemble with us to day, and who may sit down with us at thy table. Pour out thy Spirit on us all. Make thyself known to us in the breaking of bread, and in all thine ordinances. May all be blessed with every rich and spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.

May thy presence be vouchsafed to all our brethren who may be prevented from being with us to day. Comfort and sustain especially all mourners, and sanctify to them thy visitations.

Bless those who are to minister to us in holy things. All thy servants bless, to fit them all for thy work to day ; and make them a blessing.

We commit ourselves to thee ; and may the voice of our supplication be acceptable with thee, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## FOR THE EVENING OF A COMMUNION SABBATH.

How inestimable are the privileges, Lord God Almighty, which we have enjoyed this day! And now, when it has come to a close, we approach together thy throne of grace, to offer thanks to thee for all the goodness which thou hast made to pass before us. Truly the Lord is good, and his tender mercies are over all his works. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. We have been permitted to assemble with thy people in thy house, and to engage in the services of thy sanctuary. We bless thee for all that our ears have heard, our eyes have seen, our hands have handled, and our mouths have tasted, of the word of life. Accept, Lord, of all our services. May our praises still be as incense before thee. Our prayers be pleased to answer. Let all the truth which we have heard be remembered by us. May it strengthen our faith, purify our hearts, influence our character, and regulate our life.

We thank thee especially that we have been privileged to sit down at the table of the Lord, and to partake of the memorials of his broken body and shed blood. Precious ordinance! blessed institution! We thank thee for thy condescending love, in appointing it, and for all the loving-kindness which thou hast, this day, made to pass before us in its observance. May we feel the obligations under which we are anew brought to redeeming mercy. May we remember that we have consecrated ourselves anew to thee—that we have renewed our covenant, and said that we are thine—thine wholly, and thine for ever. O Lord, give

us grace to walk in accordance with our sacramental engagements. May we walk in thy ways, observe thine ordinances, and keep thy precepts. May the love of Christ constrain us to deny ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and to perfect holiness in thy fear. May we thus prove the sincerity of the profession which we have this day made. May we shew that we have been with Jesus, by cultivating his spirit—thinking as he thinks—choosing as he chooses—willing as he wills—speaking as he spoke, and walking as he walked. Make thy grace sufficient for us, to enable us thus to act, for we are weak, and unable of ourselves to keep our vow, and redeem the solemn pledges which we have this day made.

While we thus pray for thy grace, we feel that we have need also to humble ourselves before thee, on account of the sins of which we have been guilty this day. In every thing we sin, and come short of thy glory—and the sins of our holy things are neither few nor small. We have not listened as we ought to the preaching of thy truth, nor felt impressed with its importance to ourselves as we should ever feel. When at thy table, what want of faith, what coldness of heart, and deadness of spirit did we feel ! O Lord, enter not into judgment with us. We require to be washed after supper ; and we rejoice that the blood of Jesus is still open to us—that it cleanses from all sin ; and we pray that the sin of unworthy hearing and praising, and praying, and, above all, of unworthy communicating, may be forgiven. O Lord, wash us, and we shall be clean ; cleanse thou us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

We pray that thy blessing may rest upon all our brethren who were this day with us at thy table.

May we live as brethren ; may we be kindly affectioned one to another in brotherly love, in honour preferring one another. May they be preserved from all evil, and kept by thy power, through faith unto salvation.

Bless thy word, wherever it has been preached this day. May thy blessing rest upon all thy Israel every where. Multiply their number. Extend thy gospel over the earth. May thy kingdom come ; thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

Bless all Missionary Societies, and those who have the management of them. Prosper all faithful Missionaries every where. Add to their number, and prosper their labours for the extension of thy cause.

And now, O Father, we commend us to thy care and protection during the night. Thou who neither slumberest nor sleepest, do thou keep us. Give us the sleep of thy Beloved. Fit us for the duties and responsibilities of a new day. The Lord bless us and keep us ; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us ; the Lord lift up his countenance, and give us peace. And unto God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, we ascribe honour and glory, dominion and praise, world without end. Amen.

FOR THE MORNING AFTER A COMMUNION SABBATH.

WE thank thee, O Lord, that we have lain down, slept in peace, and risen in health ; for thou hast preserved us. We thank thee, that it is our privilege to meet again around thy footstool, and to adore thee as the God of our salvation. We re-



member, with devout gratitude, and holy joy, thy kindness to us on the past day. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts ! Blessed are they who dwell in thy house. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee—in whose heart are thy ways. Surely we felt, that it is a good thing to draw near unto the Lord ; and we would now say, that a day spent in thy courts is better than a thousand. The Lord our God is a sun and shield. The Lord gives grace and glory, and no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. As one is comforted of his mother, so dost thou comfort thy children ; and thou comfortest them in Jerusalem. We thank thee for all the privileges we enjoyed—that we were permitted to meet so many of thy people, and enjoy sweet fellowship with them in the celebration of thine ordinances—that we were privileged to unite with them in the acts of devotion, and in hearing the glad tidings of salvation. We thank thee especially for the fellowship which it was our happiness to enjoy with thyself. How great is the condescending kindness of our God ! How wonderful that Jehovah should admit creatures like us to communion with Him ! But thy ways are not like our ways, nor thy thoughts like our thoughts. We bless thee anew for the ordinance of the Supper, and that it was our high privilege to observe it yesterday. For all the goodness and the truth thou didst shew us at thy table, we unite in blessing thee. O that our souls may ever retain the impressions of the divine love which we then experienced ; and that we may have grace given us to enable us to walk worthy of the profession we then made. We return to thy house to-day publicly to express our gratitude

for thy great goodness to us on this occasion. And there may we meet with thee as thou didst meet thy servant Jacob of old. O may our souls thirst anew for God ! Having drunk already of the wells of salvation, may we long for still deeper and more refreshing draughts of the living water. May we go to thy house to meet with thee, our covenant God ; and may thy servant be so directed that he shall be the instrument of guiding us to thyself, and helping our fellowship with thee. May the last, be the best day of the feast. May we be satisfied with the fatness of thy house, and be made to drink of the river of thy pleasures. Shed down into our souls the richest influences of thy Spirit. Strengthen thy servant for his work. Help him to be the helper of our faith. May he be blessed, and be made a blessing to us, and to all our fellow worshippers. Our brethren and our fellow members bless. Make us all grateful for the privileges which we have at this time enjoyed. May we all be the better for them. May we all love thee, and one another more, and serve thee better. May the world take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus ; and thus may our light so shine before men, that they seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in heaven. We desire now to commend us to thy care. With thine eye set upon us, do thou shew us direction. Preserve us this day from all evil, and especially from all sin. Let us not quench nor grieve the Holy Spirit, and injure our own souls. The sins of this present approach do thou mercifully forgive. Hear these our supplications, and answer us in peace, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

## FOR THE EVENING AFTER A COMMUNION SABBATH.

How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O Lord ! How great is thy goodness ! Therefore would we put our trust under the shadow of thy wings. And now, O thou God of all our mercies, we would render to thee our grateful acknowledgments for all the countenance thou hast shewed us during the solemnity that has this day been brought to a close. We thank thee for all the assistance which thou hast vouchsafed to thy servants who have conducted the public services on this occasion ; and particularly for the countenance which thou hast shewn to thy servant, our Pastor. For all the precious truth which it has been his privilege to proclaim, we bless thee. And we now unite in beseeching thee to follow with thy best blessing all the services. May the great truths of thy gospel be better understood by us—their importance more clearly perceived—our own personal interest in them more deeply felt—and their practical influence more distinctly manifested. We pray that all the sins which have been committed by us, either in hearing, or in commemorating the Lord's death, or in praising, or in praying, may, for Christ's sake, be mercifully forgiven. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, O Lord ; for if thou wert strict to mark our iniquity against us, we could not stand before thee. Help us to remember where we have so frequently been, and what we have been doing. Give us grace to recollect our solemn vows made at thy table, and which are now recorded in thy book. Help us to keep our vows, to conduct ourselves in ac-

cordance with our obligations. We have said that we do not belong to the world—that we are not our own, but thine. Give us grace to keep ourselves unspotted from the world—to live not to ourselves, but to thee. Let us not be led astray by its pleasures, nor moved aside from the path of duty by its frowns. May it be kept in its proper place, not in our hearts, but beneath our feet. May we remember, that all which is in the world, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world. Preserve us from the power of the devil. May we watch, and pray against his temptations. Encouraged by thy promise, and strengthened by thy grace, may we resist the devil, that he may flee from us. Preserve us from the corruption of our own hearts. Let not sin have dominion over us. Enable us to mortify the deeds of the body—to put away from us all malice, and all guile and hypocrisy, and envies, and all evil speaking, as new born babes, may we receive the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby. Having named the name of Christ, may we depart from all iniquity. Preserve us from it in every form, in thought, word, and deed. But we desire not only to be preserved from the commission of sin; we would also, as thy pledged children, be diligent and conscientious in the performance of every duty. May we know what our duty to thee is, and do thou give us grace to discharge it. May we cultivate every grace that we know is pleasing to thee. May we be faithful in waiting on thee in the public ordinances of thy grace, in the observance of family duty, and in the study of thy word. May we shew that we love and desire fellowship with thee, in attending

upon thee in all those ordinances in which thou hast promised to meet with thy people and to bless them. Enable us to perform all the duties incumbent on us as members of thy Church. May we account it a privilege to support thine ordinances ; and seek Zion's prosperity. In the family relation, and as members of society, whatever be our station, may we give evidence that we are actuated by Christian principle, and are under the influence of Christian love. May we, in all our intercourse with men, be courteous and pitiful, ready to communicate, and prepared to do good, as we have opportunity, to all men. Enable us especially to look with deep pity upon the world lying in wickedness. Lord have mercy upon sinners, and help us to remember our obligations to seek their good.

Help us to labour for the conversion of the world. O, spread abroad the knowledge of thy gospel. Bless our efforts for this purpose. May we be conscientious in doing what we can. May we recollect that in this way we prove the reality of our religion. Freely we have received ; may we freely give. Greatly hast thou blessed us ; give us grace to make us desirous of blessing others.

And do thou, O Lord, bless this apostate world. Have mercy on the wicked in our own neighbourhood, and in the city where we dwell. Arrest the progress of iniquity in the land, and bring all the population under the influence of the gospel. Extend the knowledge of that gospel over the whole earth. Scatter to the winds every system of superstition and will-worship. Put down all power and authority that oppose the progress of truth and righteousness. Destroy the man of sin with the breath of thy mouth, and by the brightness of thy coming. Deliver men from the delusions of

the Mohammedan imposture. Take away the veil from the heart of thine ancient people. Convince them that the Messiah has already come—that Jesus of Nazareth is that Messiah, and that it is therefore vain to look for another. O bring them in with the fulness of the Gentiles. May heathen superstition, every where, be destroyed. May thy kingdom come. May thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. May all thy people every where unite more closely, and work more earnestly, for the accomplishment of this great work. May we remember that we have pledged ourselves anew in reference to it. To enable us to do it, and all the duties now incumbent on us, we beseech the aid of thy heavenly grace. Lord help us. Lord strengthen us. Lord direct us. Help us to keep before us the example set us by our Lord. Enable us to study his character and cultivate his spirit. Help us to think like him—to choose as he did—to speak as he spoke—to act as he acted—to walk as he walked; and then we will walk worthy of our profession, and be enabled to glorify thy name.

We commit ourselves to thy care during the night. Keep us during all the days and nights of our earthly pilgrimage. Prepare us for all that is before us. Fit us for life. Prepare us for death. For us to live may it be Christ, and to die gain. In life, and in death, may we be thine. Throughout eternity be thou our exceeding great reward.

May our prayers be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, in whose name we present them—to whom, with thee and the blessed Spirit, one God, be all praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## MISCELLANEOUS PRAYERS.

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### 1.—FOR REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD.

O MOST gracious and eternal Lord God ! Heaven and earth are full of thy praise. All thy creatures, to whom thy goodness extends, worship and adore thee, their great Creator, Sovereign Lord, and merciful Father. Among all thy works none come so far short in duty as sinful man. Alas ! we, the guilty and polluted race of Adam, do acknowledge, to thy glory and our own shame and confusion, that we have gone on long in rebellion against thy Majesty. We confess, O God, that however great and numerous our sins and our iniquities have been, yet we have not had great sorrow for having transgressed thy law, and provoked thee to anger. We plead guilty ; and cast ourselves on thy mercy, through Christ Jesus. There is no acceptance with thee, but through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, as Mediator. Do thou, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit, convince us of our guilt and danger as transgressors of thy law, and as strangers to thy grace ; so that we may be brought to seek for mercy, and to believe in the Saviour. Grant us repentance and remission of sins. May we be brought to seek in earnest for these blessings by faith in the name of Christ, as the purchase of his atoning

sufferings, the fruit of his intercession, and the effect of his grace. When we are convinced of our sins, may we cry to thee, O God, for pardon. • We desire not only pardon of our sins, but divine power to enable us to subdue them; and that our repentance be such as shall not need to be repented of. May thy goodness lead us to repentance. And we pray, O Lord, that repentance unto life may be freely wrought in our souls by the operation of thy Holy Spirit; for by him alone can our hearts be either melted or changed. We confess, that without the influence of the Holy Spirit, no persuasion however earnest, no mercies however great, and no judgments however awful, will turn us from the evil of our ways. Turn thou us, O Lord, and we shall be turned; for thou art the God of our salvation. May we abstain from the love and practice of every sin, and love thee, our God, as the delight of our hearts, and make thy service the business of our lives. Blessed be thy name, O God, that Christ suffered on the cross for us, and that he reigns on the throne to give repentance. May the consciousness of our unworthiness, and of the evil that dwells in us, lead us to humility and penitence. Thy patience, O God, affords us time and opportunity to repent; and thy mercy supplies motives and encouragements to it.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon us in Christ Jesus our Saviour. According to the promise which thou hast in thy word given us, and according to the faith which thou hast by the Spirit, and thy grace wrought in us. We pray, O Lord, that we may not only receive the Holy Spirit, but that he may abide with us, to perfect the work of our repentance, to prevent our relapses into sin, and



to enable us rightly to discharge our duties. Do thou be graciously pleased to assist and direct us in every step of our life; take us under thy Fatherly protection, and the direction of the Holy Spirit of grace, that we may never depart from the ways of thy commandments. O Lord, accept of us as thy servants. O our God, give us grace and strength to walk in thy fear. Subdue sin and corruption in us, and increase faith, strengthen our graces, and, out of thine all-sufficiency, supply our wants, and make us thine in soul, body, and spirit. Fit us for thy service in time, and prepare us for glory. And to thee, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose we are, and resolve to be, be praise, and glory, and honour, for ever and ever. Amen.

## 2.—FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

O LORD, we desire to bend at thy footstool in self-abasement and confusion of face, to make confession of our sins, and to implore the forgiveness of them for Christ's sake. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity. Thou hast no pleasure in wickedness, neither shall sinners dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity; and how can we, as sinners, approach unto thee? We come, O Lord, in the assurance of thine own promise, that if we confess our sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Wert thou, merciful God, strict to mark iniquity against us, we could not answer thee for one

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of a thousand of our transgressions ; and thou mightest justly, long before this, have assigned us our portion in that place where thy mercy is clean gone, and where thou hast for ever forgotten to be gracious, where there is no hope, but where there rests the blackness of darkness for ever. But thanks be to thy name, thou hast remembered us in mercy, and hast given us time and space to repent, and to turn from the error of our ways to thee the living God.

We confess before thee, O Lord, all our sins, both of omission and commission. We have committed sin times and ways without number. Teach us to abhor sin with a perfect hatred—to look upon it as thou dost. O may we ever remember that it was on account of it that the Lord of glory suffered and died.

We bless and adore thy holy name, O Lord, that when our race had fallen by sin, thou didst devise a plan of redemption by which we might be restored to thy favour, and become the recipients of thy complacent love. Thou didst send thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son to this world, to carry out the plan of redemption on our behalf. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that thou didst love us, and didst send thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Thanks be to thy name, O our God, for the precious and glorious truth revealed to us, that the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. We would come to that fountain, to be washed from our sins, and to be made clean. O give us, we earnestly beseech thee, the eye of faith to behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, as taking away our sins, and imparting to us pardon and peace. We bless thee that, for

his sake, thou dost not only forgive us all our sins, but dealest with us as if we had never sinned. We bless thee that the blood of Christ speaketh better things than the blood of Abel.

Enable us, Almighty Father, by thy grace, to depart from all iniquity, and to avoid the appearance of evil. Let us, like thy people in the early ages of the Church, lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. O enable us to forsake sin, and, by thy grace, to resist the temptations of the world, and of sin, and of Satan. Impress upon our minds that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. May we put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the evil one.

Grant, O Lord, that we may shew that our confession of sin is sincere, not only by our fleeing from it as from an enemy, and ceasing to be its workers, but also by our cheerfully doing thy will, and obeying thy commandments. Teach us, O Lord, to live holily, knowing that without holiness no man shall see thee the Lord.

Keep us, we earnestly entreat thee, from the power and dominion of sin; and may the allurements and attractions of earth and time have no influence over us, in again drawing us into its dangerous paths. Enable us to run on in the path of duty, through all the temptations and afflictions that may be placed in our way, so that at last we may receive the prize of eternal life.

Hear, O Lord, our confessions; accept of them,

and blot out all our sins, for Christ's sake. Never leave us, never forsake us ; but be our God and guide here, and throughout eternity our exceeding great reward. We ask every mercy through Jesus Christ. Amen.

3.—FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND CLEARER VIEWS OF THE  
LOVE OF GOD.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name ! Thou art worthy of our supreme devotion and love. We are thine, O God ; and thy command to love thee with all our heart and soul, and strength and mind is most reasonable. By thy power were we created, and by thee are we still sustained ; by thy bounty are our wants all supplied ; by thy kind Providence and watchful care are all the circumstances of our lot wisely arranged, and our comfort and happiness secured ; and by thy grace and love have we been brought nigh to thee through the blood of Christ. O Lord our God, how excellent are thy loving-kindnesses ! Humbly relying on Him, who is the way to thee, the Father, we would approach thee as children, beseeching thee to awaken within our breasts the feelings of sons. We would desire, O God, to evince our son-ship by our love to thee, who hast shewn such love to us as to call us thy sons. Do thou reveal to us more fully the riches of thy grace and the greatness of thy love, that our hearts may be melted at the wondrous spectacle, our affections excited, and our whole souls drawn towards thee. Alas, O God, that thy love to us as our Creator and Preserver, and still more, as the God of our Salvation, should exert so little

influence upon us ! Our hearts cleave to the dust. O quicken thou us ! Draw us, O God, that we may run after thee. We beseech thee to open the eyes of our understandings, and cause the light of the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ, to shine in our hearts. Thy name, O God, is love ; and all thy dealings with our race, and with us as individuals, have been worthy of this title which thou bearest. And we now present to thee the same prayer that was uttered by thy servant of old,—O Lord, we beseech thee shew us thy glory. May we comprehend the length and breadth, and depth and height of thy love, that we may thus feel its constraining power. O shed abroad thy love in our hearts. Let not the theme of redeeming love be ever absent from our minds ; let it not fail to excite increasing wonder, love, and praise, as we continue to direct our thoughts to it. May we remember with what feelings of rapture the angels hailed the advent of the Saviour to redeem a fallen race. May we remember the employment of the redeemed in heaven, whose lips are ever singing the song of redeeming love ; may we remember how this love was manifested, by the humiliation, the sufferings, and death of thine own dear Son ; may we remember what we deserved—thy wrath and curse ; and may we look forward to that inheritance to which we have been begotten by the resurrection of Christ from the dead ; and as we think of all this, O may we feel—may we feel intensely—and may we be constrained to say, O God of our salvation, we are wholly thine—thine for ever ! Thee will we serve, and thee will we love ardently, constantly, and without end ! Whom have we in heaven but thee, and there is none in all the earth that our souls desire besides

thee ! Deny us not thy Spirit, we beseech thee. Make us now to feel his hallowed influence. May he now begin to shew unto us the things of Christ, and continue to shew us more and more, until we behold thy glory fully, as reflected by him, and be thus made to feel an ardour of devotion, and a warmth of love, as intense as were our former ingratitude and hatred. May he now, as we surround thy throne of grace, excite in us a vivid and joyous remembrance of the peculiar tokens of thy love to us as individuals. When we were wandering in ways that were not good, thy voice fell on our ears, and thy grace touched our hearts. Thou didst warn us of our danger—thou didst encourage us by thy gracious invitations, and thou didst turn us to thyself, by revealing thy Son in us, the hope of glory. O God, what shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits towards us ! O teach us to think of thy love as we rise up, and as we lie down, in our homes, and as we move in society ; may we think of it during the day time, and meditate on it during the night-watches. We would make it our song during all the days of our pilgrimage ; and when our pilgrimage is ended, still would we hope to sing of the mercy and love of our God. May we be trained below for joining in the song of Moses and the Lamb. And when we leave this earthly abode, may it be to be admitted to the fountain whence those streams of grace and love have flowed which now fill us with joy and hope.

And now, O God, we cast ourselves on thy love anew, beseeching thee to hear all our prayers, to fulfil our desires, and to forgive all our sins, for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us—to whom, and to the Father, and the Holy

Spirit, one God, be glory, and honour, and power, world without end. Amen.

4.—FOR GREATER DEVOTION TO THE SERVICE OF GOD.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we pray thee to aid us with thy Spirit, and listen to the voice of our supplication, while we now present our humble petitions at the footstool of thy throne. Thou art great and greatly to be feared, worthy of our reverence, our service, and our love.

We thank thee that thou hast given us the capacity for serving thee, and enabled us to see that in thy service there is to be found a great reward. We especially thank thee that in the person, and ministry, and sacrifice of our Divine Redeemer we have such a noble example, and such a powerful motive, to faithfulness and zeal in thy blessed work. We bless thy name that thou didst devote him to work out, through suffering, and shame, and death, a glorious salvation for our ruined race; and we magnify that grace which led Him in the distant ages of a past eternity, to say, in the view of his great work, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. We rejoice to know that love to man bore him up in the anticipation of his ministry of reproach and sorrow,—that it sustained Him in the endurance of all his sufferings,—and that it still rules in the bosom of our great High Priest within the veil. We trust that his love has touched our hearts, and awakened in them a reciprocal emotion. And we thank thee, that thou hast not merely awakened within us sentiments of love and gratitude towards thyself, but hast put upon us

duties, in the discharge of which we may cultivate our love and manifest our gratitude.

We have to confess before thee, O thou Searcher of hearts, that we have often been unmindful of our duty, and have failed in our devotion to thy cause, and obedience to thy law.

Give us to see the extent, the searching character, and binding obligation of thy law, that we may feel it at all times pressing upon us, and pointing out the path and the measure of our duty. Deepen our love to Christ, and make us to feel that every duty is pleasant—that every burden is light—that every trial is easy, when they have been put upon us by him. Enable us to feel that the path of duty and the path of peace are the same. May our souls be so imbued by spiritual principle and spiritual love, by the blessed aid of the Holy Spirit, that it shall be natural for us to obey thy commandments, and that we shall exhibit a devoted character and a holy life. May we never forget what we owe to Christ; and may the thought of his work for us inspire us with the desire of doing much for him. Pour into our souls the same spirit that dwelt in him; and may our devotion to thy service be so like his, that we too may feel it our meat and our drink to do thy will. Let us never lose sight of the means by which we were redeemed from sin and Satan; but enable us to remember that, since we have been bought with a price, we are bound to glorify thee with our bodies and spirits which are thine. May we be enabled to lay aside every weight, and the sin which more easily besets us, and to run with patience the race that is set before us.



And should we, O heavenly Father, at any time become weary in well-doing, may thy Spirit revive our flagging zeal, and strengthen our sinking faith. May we derive inspiration and vigour from the contemplation of that cloud of witnesses who have gone before, and especially from the consideration of Him who endured the contradiction of sinners against himself. Give us grace to keep our eye ever fixed on him, and may love to him ever burn brightly in our hearts, and thus may we be enabled to follow closely in his footsteps, and to feel, day by day, our power to serve him strengthening, and our delight in his service increasing.

And keep us, we beseech thee, from confining our view exclusively to the present. Enable us to raise our eyes above this scene of things, to the contemplation of the glory and the grandeur of that inheritance, which is pledged to the faithful followers of the Lamb. We know that our best works cannot merit thine acceptance, and that after we have done all, we are still unprofitable servants; and we magnify that grace which seeks to draw us on by the hope of a crown of righteousness, promised to all the servants of Christ. O may the hope of such a reward make us active and self-denying; may it put courage into our heart and strength into our arm. And feeling that all the ills that can assail us, and all the labour we can be called to undergo in this life, are but light and trifling, when compared with the weight of glory that shall be revealed in us; may we be willing to spend and be spent in thy service. Give us thy Spirit to direct us, and thy strength to uphold us; and when thy purposes with us here are finished, take us to thy

heavenly home ; for the sake of our Divine Redeemer. Amen.

5.—THANKSGIVING FOR GENERAL BENEFITS.

O THOU Giver of all good, it is a good thing to render thanks unto thee, to sing praises to thy name. O Most High ! help us now, as we approach thee with words of praise and thanksgiving on our lips, to call on our souls, and on all that is within us to bless thy holy name. May we remember our own unworthiness in connection with thy goodness towards us. Bring to our recollection all our sins, and humble us deeply before thee, O God, at the thought of what we are, and what we deserve. May our gratitude for all thy favours rise in proportion to our demerit. To us indeed belong shame and confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee ; but to thee, O God, belong mercies. Instead of sending the ministers of thy wrath to inflict on us the awful sentence which our sins have written against us, thou hast caused thy goodness and thy mercy ever to follow us. Thou causest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over us. Since the first dawn of our existence until now—hast thou cared for all our wants, and watched over us with more than a parent's care. Thou hast guarded us when exposed to danger,—thou hast directed us when perplexed,—thou hast cheered us when downcast,—thou hast recalled us when wandering astray,—thou hast fitted us for enjoying the many seasons of happiness we have experienced ; and our sorrows and 'trials thou hast enabled us to sustain. When we revert

in thought to our past history, when we reflect on our present position and circumstances, and when we look forward to our future prospects, we feel that no words can express our obligations to thee. Although life is a chequered scene, because of sin, yet how much of pleasure, and how little of pain have we experienced ! and even the sorrows and pains we have experienced have all tended to promote our highest good.

We thank thee for the various powers and susceptibilities with which thou hast endowed us, all of which are channels through which the purest joy may be made to flow into our souls. We would delight in marking thy goodness as displayed in the adaptation of thy benefits to our wants and desires. We would acknowledge thy kindness in providing for our temporal necessities. Thou suppliest us day by day with every thing needful for the support and the enjoyment of life. Thou hast made provision, too, for gratifying our sympathies and affections, by means of our connection with our fellow-men. We thank thee for domestic ties, with all the tender associations and soul-cheering feelings to which these ties give rise. We thank thee for the ties of friendship and of Christian love, with the pleasure and benefit they confer. We thank thee for social ties, and the gratification that results from our attending to our social duties.

Grant, O gracious God, that what thy goodness intended for promoting our profit and happiness, may not, through our abuse or neglect, prove injurious to our souls, and prejudicial to our highest interests.

But while thou hast made such abundant provision for the wants and necessities of our bodies, and

our social natures, we have still greater cause to bless thee as the God who hast cared for our souls. We thank thee for giving us a revelation of thy will, and for the wondrous disclosures it makes unto us. Thanks be unto God that it reveals Him who came to give light to us, who were in darkness, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We rejoice that through the Gospel, life and immortality have been brought to light. May Christ be formed in our hearts the hope of glory. May a new song thus be put in our lips, even praise to our God, who hath begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We give thee thanks for the promise of the gracious influence and assistance of thy Holy Spirit. May we be the subjects of his enlightening and purifying influences; may we be guided by him into all truth; may we be brought by him fully under the influence of truth, and taught to exemplify the principles of thy word in our lives. We would feel grateful for the arrangements and appointments which thou hast made for promoting our spiritual training. We thank thee for the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty; for being placed in the midst of a Christian community where thy Word abounds, where thy Sabbaths and the ordinances of thy grace are attended to. May we rightly use all our privileges, remembering that to whom much is given, of them the more will be required. As we experience so much of thy goodness, may we be ready to admit that all things—not merely the joys—but the sorrows we experience—not merely the smile of prosperity, but also

the frown of adversity, are working together for our good.

Our souls exclaim at what thou hast done for us, and what thou wilt do, What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits? Help us, O God, constrained by thy mercies and wonderous love, to present our bodies living sacrifices to thee. May we feel that we have nothing we can call our own—that we ourselves are not our own, but thine, and are bound therefore to devote all we possess, and even ourselves to thy service, and the promotion of thy glory.

May the God of all grace, who hath blessed us with blessings so great and numerous hitherto, bless us still, and preserve us by his Almighty power to the day of complete redemption, and then call us to his eternal kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now unto God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be glory as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

#### 6.—FOR LOVE TO ALL MANKIND.

O GOD of love, we rejoice to know, that thy name has been in all generations the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. We would praise and glorify thee, that thou hast opened up a way to thy throne of grace for us, through the rent veil of our Redeemer's flesh. And while we would approach thee, through that way, O give us that holy reverence and godly fear, which become those who would

present their prayers to the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. And may that reverence and fear, be mingled with that due confidence and boldness, which become children, in their intercourse with a kind and indulgent Father. Grant, O God, that while the remembrance of our sins begets in us lowliness and filial fear, the remembrance of thy grace and mercy, as displayed in the mission and death of thy Son, our Saviour, may inspire us with boldness and hope.

We confess before thee, O God, our many and aggravated sins; sins of the heart, and of the life; sins of omission and of commission. But we would chiefly deplore before thee, at this time, our selfishness of heart, and of life. Alas, we must confess that unmindful altogether of the welfare of our fellow-men, we live wholly to ourselves, and for ourselves. O lead us to think of thy great love toward us; and while we do so, to mourn over our own coldness and selfishness. Thy tender mercies are over all thy works; but we are cold and slothful for others, but warm and active for ourselves: our own interest is our chief concern, but the welfare of our fellow-men, seldom occupies our thoughts, and less seldom touches our hearts.

O send down thy Spirit, that He may melt the exceeding coldness of our hearts; that he may take away all envyings, emulations, and hatred from them; that he may imbue us with the spirit of Christ, whose love for mankind was so strong, that he counted not his life too dear a sacrifice for their salvation. May we walk in his steps, and follow his example: and in accordance with his own precept, may we love Him first, and all mankind next. For while the first and great

commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our mind,—the second is, to love our neighbours as ourselves. May we remember that all men form one great family, of which we ourselves are members. May we not love in word, neither in tongue only, but in deed, and in truth. May we be stirred up to active and persevering efforts for the good of our race, always bearing in mind, that the same God is our Father, the same Jesus our Saviour, and the same Holy Spirit our Sanctifier, and that all believers have the same destination. O enable us to do all that in us lies, to spread the glad tidings of the glorious Gospel to the farthest ends of the earth,—that Gospel which is itself love, and which begets love in all who receive it. May it spread till all nations shall know it; till from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth, none shall say unto his brother, know the Lord, for all shall know him, from the least even to the greatest; till men shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; till nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they harm each other any more; but all, bound together by Christian love, shall form one redeemed mighty family, and raise their glad Hallelujahs, in unison, to thy throne.

These our humble prayers, O Lord, are before thee; pardon the sins of this imperfect and unworthy approach; forgive what has been amiss; and receive what has been in accordance with thy will; and blot out all our sins as a cloud, and our transgressions as a thick cloud, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## 7.—FOR AN INCREASE OF MISSIONARY SPIRIT.

O LORD God of hosts, thou art great, and greatly to be feared, and to be had in reverence of all thy creatures. Thou art He who createdest the heavens and the earth ; and in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Thou art also the God of salvation. We adore thee as the Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whom we have redemption, through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. We thank thee, O Lord, that in thine infinite mercy thou hast blessed us with the Gospel—glad tidings of salvation, by which life and immortality have clearly been brought to light. We bless thee, O our God, that it has come to us as good news ; that it has revealed Christ to us as the way, the truth, and the life ; that it has enjoined us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world ; and that it has opened up to us the realities of the world to come. Enable us, O Lord God, when it has thus come home to us in spirit and in power, and we are enjoying its blessings, and experiencing its joy and peace, to disseminate its light, and its blessings, by sending it to those who have it not.

O Lord, may we ever bear in mind that this nation once sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death ; that superstition and ignorance reigned alone and supreme in the minds and hearts of men ; that the worship then rendered to thee was the cold, formal, external worship of the lips, instead of the active and living worship of the heart. Thanks be to thy name, that these idols no longer are worshipped ; and that the Gospel has dispelled the darkness in which man-



kind were enveloped, and in which they lived, and that it has shed abroad its blessings of light, and joy, and peace. When we reflect on what our fathers were, and contrast our condition with theirs, may the question ever recur to our minds, how came the change? It was the word of truth that wrought the great change. Thou didst put it into the mind and heart of those that possessed and believed it, to send it to us who had it not. Enable us, O Lord, to imitate the same noble example and Christian spirit, and send it to the heathen, so that its saving grace may be made known among all nations.

We lament, O Lord, before thee, that we have been so indifferent to the claims of thy Gospel upon us. When we reflect upon the blessings we have received, and now enjoy through it, and the love which thou bearest towards us and our race, how little gratitude we have shewn, in desiring to spread the knowledge of thy truth! May we feel that if we have not the spirit of Christ, we are none of his.

We confess, O Lord, with deep contrition of heart, that few and feeble have been the prayers we have offered up for the success of thy cause; and that we have often spent our substance on trifles and amusements, which we should have cast into thy treasury. Impressed, as we sincerely trust we are, with the value of the immortal soul, we would desire to pray more fervently for the spread of the Gospel, at home and abroad, and that sinners might be converted to the Saviour; and we would desire also to give of our substance, as thou hast prospered us, to the maintenance of thy cause. We would desire to conse-

crate all to thee. We are only thy stewards, and would ever bear in mind, that thou hast committed talents to our keeping, that we might exercise them. May we ever look upon ourselves, and all we possess, as belonging to thee, the Lord. O increase, we earnestly pray thee, within us the spirit of Missionary effort. May it ever be our earnest prayer, that the world may soon be converted; and do thou bless, we beseech thee, all the means that are in operation for the accomplishment of this great end. May all ministers, and teachers, and Christians, be upheld by thy grace, and their labours abundantly blessed of thee. Bless, we earnestly pray thee, all the ministers in thy vineyard. May they be as workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Bless, in an especial manner, thy servants who have gone forth, as heralds of the cross, to the perishing heathen, to preach the unsearchable riches of redeeming grace. Be thou their friend in their labours of love, and sustain them amidst all their difficulties and privations, counting it their highest honour to suffer in their master's work; and may they be led to acknowledge thee in all their ways, so that thou mayest direct their steps. Do thou cheer and comfort them amidst all discouragements, by causing them to reflect on thy promises, that thou art with them, yea even to the end of the world; and that thy knowledge shall one day cover the earth, as the waters cover the channel of the mighty deep.

Hasten, O Lord, that glorious period predicted in thy word, when Christ shall possess the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession.

Enable thy Church to be more zealous in promoting thy cause than she has hitherto been. May all her members know, that her success lies in individual prayer, personal piety, and personal effort.

Increase our faith, O Lord ; increase our Missionary zeal. May we evince our thankfulness for having received the Gospel, by sending it willingly and cheerfully to those who have it not.

Hear our petitions ; and accept of us through the Beloved. Amen.

#### 8.—FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

O LORD, thou art a great God and great King, the Lord Jehovah, in whom is everlasting strength. Thou art blessed in thyself, and the gracious author of all our blessings. Manifold and marvellous, O Lord, are thy works, both of nature and grace. Surely in wisdom and loving-kindness hast thou made them all. Behold all things are at thy command, and all events at thy disposal.

Thou, O Lord, didst send redemption to Israel by Moses ; and didst, at Mount Sinai, establish thy covenant with thy people. Thou hast now established thy covenant with the Gentiles, and given to them thy Gospel. Thou hast revealed to us, in thy word, that thine ancient people, the Jews, are no longer to offer the shadowy sacrifices of the law, since He, who is the substance of them all, has come into the world ; and that the Gentiles are no more to offer their idolatrous sacrifices, since their idols have fallen before the cross. But, returning sinners, whether Jews or Gentiles, are to offer the same sacrifices of a

broken and contrite spirit, which thou hast assured them thou wilt not despise, in the name of Christ, through whose blood they are acceptable to thee.

Blessed be thy name, O God, that while the rebellious and unbelieving Jews have disowned their King and rejected his Salvation, we have been grafted into a good olive tree, and are the children of thee our God, by faith in Jesus Christ. We pray, O Lord, that thine ancient people may no longer continue in their unbelief and hardness of heart. May they be brought to believe in Christ as their only Saviour. We know, O Lord, how peculiarly gracious thou hast been to them thy chosen people, and how they have abused their mercies, and undervalued their privileges; and how justly they deserve to be visited with the grievous calamities which thou hast been pleased to inflict upon them.

We remember the covenant which thou didst make with them in Abraham; that thou didst call them to be a people unto thyself, when they were no people. We remember the deliverances which thou didst accomplish for them from Egyptian bondage, and from Babylonish captivity; and that thou didst plant them in a land which was the glory of all lands. We remember, that thou didst make them the depositories of thy law; that thou didst bestow upon them blessings and privileges such as thou never didst bestow upon any other people. We know that thou didst send thy servants, the Prophets, unto them, but that yet they hearkened not unto them. We know, that thou didst appeal unto them, and say, What more could have been done unto my vineyard which I have not done unto it; and when I looked

that it should bring forth grapes, it brought forth wild grapes.

We know that, last of all, in thine inconceivable and unparalleled love, thou didst send thine own Son to dwell amongst them, and to be their Saviour and Deliverer; and although he was the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person, yet they saw nothing in him that they should desire him;—nay, they hated him, and said that they would not have this man to reign over them; and to fill up the measure of their iniquity, they crucified the Lord of glory.

We remember, O Lord, the many warnings, entreaties, and expostulations which the blessed Jesus did use to prevail upon that hard-hearted and stiff-necked people, to accept the salvation which he offered; and when they rejected all the gracious overtures which he made to them, we remember how tenderly he lamented over them, and how he thought of their unbelief, saying, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not; and behold now your house is left desolate.

But, O Lord, although we remember all this, yet we would desire, with awe and reverence, to call to mind that thou hast spoken comfortably to Zion, and hast given the promise, that Jerusalem shall again be inhabited by thy people—that thou shalt save them from the east country and from the west country—that thou hast said, I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

O most gracious God, we entreat thee to turn away the reproach of this thine ancient heritage, and let them no longer be a bye-word among the nations. O let thine anger be turned away from them, and let thy hand be stretched out in mercy. O remove the veil from their hearts which prevents them, when reading the Scriptures, from seeing that the prophecies are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ—that he is indeed the Messiah promised, and that it is vain for them to look for another.

We rejoice, O most merciful God, that thou art now putting it into the hearts of so many of thy people to sympathize with this interesting, though dispersed and despised people. Without thine assistance and direction, O Lord, we know that their exertions will be unavailing and useless. Bless then the means that are employed for their conversion and salvation. May they not listen to the offers of thy grace in vain. May they come to trust in thy mercy and thy truth for the fulfilment of all thy gracious promises to their souls. Grant them all the blessings of thy kingdom of grace here, and glory hereafter. Set up thy kingdom in the hearts of us to whom thy dear Son has come, and bring into captivity our every thought to the obedience of Christ. Grant, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, these our petitions, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

9.—FOR THE AGED AND INDIGENT.

O LORD, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, we would at this time enter thy presence,

with the voice of prayer and supplication, and would beseech thee to give us those feelings which it becomes creatures occupying our position, and possessing our character, ever to cherish. May we feel our nothingness and our sinfulness, and have our sense of them deepened by drawing near to thee, the Holy and Almighty God. Thou art He who inhabiteth eternity, and claimeth as thy due the praises of the universe, whose name alone is holy. We are beings created by thy power, dependent upon thy bounty, and yet destitute of every title to favour. Of the meanest of thy mercies we are utterly unworthy, and yet thou hast encouraged us to seek from thee the richest blessings that the soul can enjoy, and hast given us the name of Christ to plead as the ground upon which we should be heard. It is his righteousness alone that we would present before thee, and would hope for acceptance with thee simply upon the ground of his finished work.

We give thee our grateful thanks that though thou art high, yet hast thou respect unto the lowly ; and in thy grace and love hast invited the weak to come to thee for strength, and the guilty to come to thee for pardon. We acknowledge our weakness, and confess our guilt. We feel that sin stains our souls, and pollutes our holiest actions. We feel a tendency to wander away from thee, and to seek for comfort and support from earthly sources. We feel a proneness to think hard things of thee, to undervalue thy blessings, to doubt thy grace, and to return thee ingratitude for all thy bounties. And yet gracious and ever-blessed God, notwithstanding our unworthiness, thou hast remembered us in mercy. Notwithstanding the number and enormity of our

transgressions, thou hast presented to us a free and full salvation, through the blood of thy Son, and hast opened up to us a way whereby we may be delivered from guilt, and freed from pollution. In the midst of our repinings thy blessings have been showered down upon us ; and despite our ingratitude, thou hast not forgotten to be gracious. O, that our souls, and all that is within us, were stirred up to bless the Lord for all his benefits, and gratefully to remember them. Early were we cast upon thy care, and hitherto hast thou been a guide and helper to us. Through the dangers of youth thou didst carry us ; amidst the trials of life thou didst sustain us ; and now, that age and infirmity have overtaken us, we trust that thou art still near us. We have often forgotten thee, but thou hast never forgotten us. And now, at this advanced stage of our pilgrimage, as we might have done at every stage in the past, we raise our Ebenezer, and say, Hitherto hast thou, the Lord, helped us.

Give us grace, O our Father, ever to cherish that confidence in thee which the contemplation of thy love, manifested in the gift of thy Son, is fitted to produce ; and which the gracious promises of thy Word, and even thy past dealings towards ourselves are calculated to strengthen. We rejoice to know that all things work together for good to them that love thee ; and would take every thing that thou causest to befall us, as the gift of a Father full of love and wisdom. We feel the trials of life to be severe ; we feel the burdens that press upon us hard to bear ; and we come to thee for strength to sustain us under them. Thou feedest the ravens, and the sparrow falls not to the ground uncared for by thee ; and thou hast



taught us to believe that we are not forgotten by our God. We would therefore cast our care upon thee, assured that thou wilt sustain it. Give us day by day our daily bread, and supply our souls with the nourishment which they require. Though thou hast seen meet to withhold from us much of that wealth which thou hast bestowed upon others, and to send upon us afflictions from which some are free, yet would we rest satisfied that all thy conduct is characterized by goodness, and the desire of advancing our best interests. Give us what thou knowest to be best ; withhold from us what thou knowest might injure our souls. But whatever thou mayest keep back from us, O, let us never want the sense of thy pardoning grace, and the experience of thy heavenly love. May our trials teach us patience under thy hand, and confirm our confidence in that Friend who sticketh closer than any brother. May we remember what he endured for us, and be kept from fainting in our minds. May we cherish the patient and submissive mind of Him who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. Though placed amidst the shades of life, may we aim at a high and shining holiness ; and though poor in this world, may we be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom that fadeth not away. May we be enabled, through faith in Christ, steadily and joyfully to anticipate the time when our trials shall terminate, and we be permitted to share in the endless bliss of our Saviour ; and supported by such a view of the future, may be enabled to count our present afflictions, as but light and trifling, and not worthy to be compared with the glory which is yet to be revealed.

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O Lord, we beseech thee, grant us thy presence in all that yet lies before us, and let thy Spirit sustain us under every ill that may yet assail us. Let the rich consolations of the Gospel support our souls, and in reference to our future lot, enable us to say Father, not our will, but thine be done. As we continue our pilgrimage, may we go ever clinging closely to thee, and daily growing in attachment to our Saviour. When we enter the valley of the shadow of death, may thy rod and staff support and comfort us ; and when called to cross the Jordan, may its swellings be smoothed before us, and may we pass safely through, leaning upon the arm of the Beloved. Be thou our God and Guide even until death ; uphold us in the last struggle, and in eternity be our exceeding great reward. We ask all for the sake of Christ. Amen.

10.—FOR RESIGNATION TO THE DIVINE WILL.

GRACIOUS Father, help us from the heart to say Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Enable us to perceive and feel that thy will concerning us must be the dictate of paternal wisdom and affection,—wisdom boundless, and unerring,—love tender, deep, and immeasurable. Thou knowest the true state of our hearts more intimately than we ourselves do. Thou seest the whole of our course through life, from its commencement to its close, with all the temptations in it to depart from thee, and, therefore, all the chastisements which thou visitest us with, are not only necessary, but they all are of the very kind best suited to our circumstances ; and are

all inflicted at the very time when we most need them. Were these chastisements less severe, then they would not make us feel, so keenly as we ought, our departure from thee. Yet none of our afflictions are so severe as our sins deserve at thine hand. O, our God, cause us to feel simple, sincere, and unbounded confidence in the whole of thy procedure towards us. Permit not our rebellious hearts to rise up against any of thy dispensations, however trying they may be. Let us not forget the many exceeding great and precious promises which thou hast given unto us of help in trouble, and of every trial resulting in our increased sanctification. May we ever rejoice that we are under the providence of thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Give us to think of the infinite wisdom and love which He manifested towards us in becoming our Saviour, and dying in our stead. And may our souls be comforted, and filled with unspeakable joy at the thought, that He who loved us unto the death, even of the cross, is now the governor of the universe, and has the appointing of all things connected with our lot upon earth. Who can love us with an affection like Christ's? Who can order all things so well as Christ? O, teach us, then, the most perfect resignation to his all-wise and gracious will. Yea, teach us not only to be resigned to his will, but most cordially to acquiesce in it. As his disciples, we profess to have committed into his hands all our interests for the eternal world, and why should we not be as willing to leave with Him all our interests pertaining to this world. O, our heavenly Father, whatever thou seest to be best for us, give us to acquiesce in with cheerfulness. If it be thy

pleasure to conduct us through scenes of prosperity, make us grateful, humble, and watchful. And when thou deemest fit to visit us with disappointments, bereavements, and sicknesses, grant us grace to be resigned, trustful in thee, and penitent on account of the sins which thy chastening hand means to correct in us, and to root out of us. Keep us on the one hand, from despising thy chastisements; and on the other, from fainting under them. O may thy Holy Spirit so influence our souls, as to make us have all our wishes entirely swallowed up in thy will. Then shall we be strengthened, sanctified, and comforted in every stage of our journey heaven-ward. Help us to contemplate the example which our blessed Redeemer has set before us, of acquiescence in thy will, when he was dwelling in our world. He said My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me. And in the midst of his mysterious and inconceivable agony in Gethsemane, he said Not my will, but thine, be done. Enable us to possess and shew the same mind that was in Him. Let us not forget, that in this matter he has left us an example to be followed. Like Him, may we be enabled to look beyond our present trials to the happy termination of them in heaven. Then shall we see how full of infinite wisdom and goodness all thine appointments concerning us were, and adore thee for them all. May our faith in thy wisdom and love now, be such as shall cause us to delight in thy will. And may we feel deeply in our hearts, that gracious and blessed truth which thine apostle uttered when he said, We know that all things work together for good to them that love God. Mould our will according

to thine own, and we shall ever be glad in thee ; and grant us what we have been asking, for the sake of our Divine Redeemer. Amen.

11.—PREPARATION FOR DEATH.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty ! thou art the eternal Spirit, without beginning or end ; incomprehensible, and invisible ; good, and the giver of all good ; powerful to do whatsoever thou pleasest, and merciful in pardoning sinners, who ask of thee the pardon of their sins, with humility and penitence of heart. With thee, O God, there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. I confess that I am a short-lived creature—that I am subject to change, to disease, and to dissolution, every moment I live in this world. I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living. My breath is in thy hand, and whenever it shall please thee to withhold it, I die, and return to the dust. But blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thy word and my own reason testify to me, that I have a precious immortal soul, as well as a frail, perishing body ; and that I shall not cease to be, when I cease to breathe. Thou, O Lord, hast taught me to believe, not only that I must die ; but that after death cometh the judgment ; and that when my body returns to the earth, my spirit shall return to thee, and be in an unalterable state, either of happiness or misery. But eternal thanks be to thee, that thou hast also made known to me that, at the general resurrection, my soul and body being re-united, shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and re-

ceive the final sentence. How greatly then, O God, should it concern me to consider my latter end, and to make preparation for death and judgment, knowing that the consequences are so awfully great and solemn.

O Lord, I confess, that I have much neglected this important work, and though I am certain that I must die; though I am convinced that they are in a very deplorable state who are altogether unfit for death; though I know not how short the season allowed me to make preparation may be; and though I have already lost much of my precious time, and done little for the everlasting happiness of my immortal soul, yet how careless and unconcerned am I still! What a wicked and deceitful heart have I! How forgetful am I of my true interests, of the things that belong to my everlasting peace!

I come to thee, O Lord, earnestly beseeching thee to enable me to make greater diligence than I have hitherto done, in preparing for the future and eternal world. Convince me effectually of the danger to which I am every moment exposed, in delaying a matter of such vital importance to my soul. Do thou, O Lord, impress me with the belief, that my state admits of no delay, but requires present obedience. Convince me, that the longer I delay to prepare for death, the more difficult it will be to perform this work; and that I can have no solid happiness in life, unless I prepare for death.

Grant, I beseech thee, O most gracious and merciful Father, that the instructions which have been given me in the Gospel, whereby I have been taught how to prepare for another world, may be observed and followed by me. Lord, I can do

nothing without thy assistance, and I have rendered myself unfit for death by my sins ; but it is thou, Lord, only who canst make me fit for it, by thy grace and the Holy Spirit. O give me that habitual and actual readiness, which are so absolutely necessary. Bestow upon me a true and saving faith, in thy Son, Jesus Christ. Increase in me, O God, the graces of the Holy Spirit, and make me every day more and more meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen my faith, and confirm my hope. Make me more meek, humble, penitent, self-denying, and heavenly minded. Cause me to abound in every good word and work, and to bring forth fruit to thy glory, and to my spiritual and eternal advantage. Lord, help me to run with patience the race that is set before me. Make me stedfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as I know that my labour shall not be in vain in the Lord. Let death, judgment, and eternity be continually in my thoughts. Help me to live every day as if it were to be my last ; and may it be my chief concern to prepare for my latter end ; and grant, I beseech thee, that whenever it shall please thee to call me hence, I may be able, with faith, hope, and joy, to resign my departing spirit into thy hands, with an assured confidence, that when I am absent from the body, I shall be present with thee, the Lord, in whose presence there is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Lord hear me, help me, and accept of me, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## 12.—THE BELIEVER'S PRAYER IN THE PROSPECT OF DEATH.

O LORD, thou art the sovereign disposer of all events; and thou art a refuge in every time of need. I have none in heaven but thee; and there is nothing upon earth I would desire beside thee. Thy favour is life; and thy loving-kindness is better than life. Give me, O Lord, that faith and humble confidence in thee, by the Spirit of grace and supplication, that I may approach thee in all my necessities, and call upon thee in the day of trouble. Lord, though I am unworthy, I come unto thee, because my Saviour, Jesus Christ, has made an atonement for my sins. Grant that I may be saved through faith in his blood. Prepare my heart to seek thee, and do thou answer me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. O! let the Spirit teach me to cry, Abba, Father.

When I review my past sinful life, I have great cause to bless the Holy Spirit that he prevailed upon me, to yield to Christ, to accept of his righteousness, and to submit to his government. I acknowledge, O God, that I formerly saw no beauty in the Saviour that I should desire Him; but now I love Him supremely.

Thou, O Lord, hast visited me in my low and lost state; and hast inspired me with the hopes of a glorious and eternal life in thy presence. I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me. I earnestly pray, O Lord, for a more abundant communication of divine grace, that deriving more and more of this spiritual life from Christ, I may have more suitable views of the eternal life which his love designs for me. May I be renewed after the



image of thee, my God, in holiness, that I may be qualified for heaven. May I contentedly submit to the stroke of death, that introduces me into the mansions of bliss.

I know, O Lord, that the only sting of death is sin, and that Christ has removed this, for all who believe in Him. May I therefore obtain grace to believe, and be enabled to adopt the triumphant language, O death, where is thy sting ! O grave, where is thy victory ! the sting of death is sin ; the strength of sin is the law ; but thanks be to God, who giveth me the victory, through my Lord Jesus Christ. May I therefore be resigned to leave this world, having the well-grounded hope of being landed on that blessed shore, where no dangers ever come ! May I take courage, and be willing rather to die than live, when it is the will of thee, my God, that I should put off this tabernacle. May I have assurance of my interest in future blessedness. May I depart in peace with thee, my God, with my fellow creatures, and with my own conscience. May I be willing to be absent from the body, that I may be present with the Lord. I confess that it is indeed most animating to know, amidst all my trials, and in the prospect of death, that whenever I die, I shall, through Christ, be admitted to eternal happiness in heaven. What is there not in heaven to draw my heart to it ? My God and Saviour are there—my home is there—and I hope to be there for ever.

I pray that while in the body, my soul may be wrapt up in grateful love to thee, and to my Saviour, and to my Sanctifier. May my every desire, my every action, be animated and regulated by this principle. May I delight to think of thee,

O God,—to meditate on thy perfections,—and to tell the wonderful richness of thy love. May I delight to serve and obey thee, while here below, and to contemplate the astonishing means of my redemption, through thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and to anticipate the felicity which awaits me hereafter.

May I view death, not with fear, but with hope, and may I love thee, my God, who hath abolished the power of death. Grant that I may rejoice in the expectation of seeing thee, my God, and my merciful Redeemer, and my blessed Sanctifier; and of being permitted to live in the regions of glory. I pray, O Lord, that the Spirit may be present with me in my last moments, to afford me inward support, to testify unto me that I am a partaker of the divine nature, and to strengthen my faith in Jesus. May I behold death approaching without fear or apprehension. May I declare with my latest voice, that I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. May I be enabled to experience that I have fought a good fight; and that I have kept the faith; and that henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.

And now, O heavenly Father, carry my spirit on the wings of eternal love, to those bright and blessed mansions in which Christ hath prepared a place for me. And do thou strengthen me to bear whatever thou hast decreed that my body should suffer here, and may my soul be fixed on that glory to which it is ascending. May the remainder of my time on earth be spent to thy glory, and so let me depart with love and joy in my heart, blessing and praising thee who sitteth

on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

13.—ANNIVERSARY, OR BIRTH-DAY PRAYER.

O LORD, thou art the hearer and the answerer of prayer ; unto thee shall all flesh come. Thou dwellest in light which is full of glory, and which no man can approach unto and live. But thanks be to thine eternal name, that that glory has been veiled to us by Christ Jesus, and that sinners can now, through that new and living way which he has opened up, approach thy footstool, to ask and to obtain that life which is everlasting.

O Lord God, I kneel at the footstool of thy throne at this time, to thank thee for all the mercies and blessings, both spiritual and temporal, which thou hast, in the bye-past years of my life, bestowed upon me ; and to dedicate anew my body, soul, and spirit to thee, and to thy service. Thou didst, as on this day, open my eyes to see the light, and do thou now, O Lord God, open mine eyes to see the spiritual light which cometh from above. Illuminate my soul, so that it may understand thy law, and obey it.

O Lord, my God, thou hast been very gracious to me above many of my friends. Thou hast cut many of them off from the land of the living, and from this place of hope ; but thou art still sparing me, a living monument of thy mercy. Thou hast been pleased to spare my life ; and I am now entered upon a new year of my existence. A few years more, and I too shall follow my friends to the dark and silent tomb. O God, keep me ever in mind of this, my latter end. May the past

years of my life suffice to have wrought the will of the flesh ; and may those that are to come, however few or however many, be wholly consecrated to thee.

O Lord, it is with sorrow of heart that I acknowledge the little progress I have hitherto made in the divine life ; but may I now be enabled, through thy grace strengthening me, to run in the Christian course earnestly, patiently, and perseveringly ; and that having so run, I may at last be accounted worthy to obtain the prize. O Lord, sanctify me through thy truth ; thy word is truth. Create within me a clean heart, and renew within me a right spirit. Cleanse me from all sin and impurity, and make me to walk in the ways of thy commandments for ever.

I would ever desire, O Lord, to thank thee for the circumstances in which I am placed, especially that in thy good providence, my lot has been cast in a land where the glad tidings of salvation are known and appreciated. Teach me, O Lord, to prize thy loving-kindness aright ; and grant that the tidings of salvation may be made glad tidings to my soul, freeing it from the thralldom of sin and Satan, and telling me of peace and of pardon through a crucified Redeemer.

Hasten the time, O Lord, when these glad tidings shall be made known on every shore, to every sinner, and when all the world shall praise thee in one adoring hymn of gratitude ; when thou shalt say to the north, Give up ; and to the south, Keep not back : bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Bless abundantly, O Lord God, the means that are being used to effect this : may they not fail in accomplishing that end.

And now, O Lord, as I am about to mingle again with the busy and bustling world, ever keep me in mind of the vow I have made, of consecrating all to thee. Enable me to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world, redeeming the time, knowing that the days are few and evil. May I work while it is day, seeing that the night cometh when no man can work.

Grant, O Lord, that on the return of another birth-day, if thou shouldst spare me to see it, I may be enabled to say that I have made some advances in the divine life; and that for me to live is Christ, and to die great gain. Make me, O my God, what thou wouldst have me to be, and at last meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my supplications; bless me, and forgive all my sins, for thy Son's sake. Amen.

#### 14.—FOR THE LAST NIGHT OF THE YEAR.

O HEAVENLY Father, we approach the footstool of thy throne, and would render thanks unto thee, that thou hast continued to us health, and spared us to see the last night of another year. We desire, O Lord, to look back, and, in reviewing all the way by which thou hast led us, would bear a grateful testimony to the compassion and kindness that have marked all the dispensations of thy providence towards us. Amidst the trials and afflictions which we experience in this wilderness, may thy hand guide us, and thy right hand uphold us. May we receive present mercies with gratitude, bear transient afflictions

with patience, and expect our happiness from thee, our unchangeable God. May we be found discharging the duties of every day, and thus wait all the days of our appointed time till our change come. Whatever our state or service may be, we would remember that our time is short. Our temporal comforts or trials will soon end; our season of preparation, or of usefulness, will shortly expire. Let us then, we pray thee, O Lord, sit loose to earthly pleasures, and bear up under all our sorrows. Let us regard heaven as our sole inheritance, and use the things of this world as not abusing them, seeing the fashion of this vain world is passing away like a shadow. Fit us for every thing between this and the grave; every service or suffering; every temptation or conflict.

We humbly beseech thee, O most merciful Father, to forgive all the sins we have committed throughout the year that is now ending. Make us deeply grieved for our shortcomings and provocations. Teach us to profit by the additional experience which every year affords of the deceitfulness of our own hearts, and of the temptations to which we are exposed. And help us, now that we have the prospect of seeing the beginning of another year, to be more on our guard against the sins that do so easily beset us, and to exercise a firmer dependence on Him, through whom alone thy people have their strength renewed, and are made more than conquerors over all their spiritual enemies. Guard us, O Lord, from every unlawful pleasure. Our safety and happiness are in thee alone. May we live consistently with our profession and privileges, our hopes and expectations. Do

thou, O Lord, give us grace to improve our many advantages to the glory of thy name. Do thou guide our steps, and suffer no evil to befall us ; nor any plague to come nigh our dwelling. And now, O Lord, seeing we are another year nearer our end, help us so to number our days, as that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom ; and so to conduct ourselves, as that we may have a well-grounded hope, and the peace of a good conscience to support us in a dying hour.

Make us, O Lord, ever sensible that we depend upon thee, that in all our necessities we may look up to thee for help. As we grow in years, may we grow in grace ; and the nearer we draw to our latter end, may we be the better prepared for it. In the midst of life we are in death. Towards the close of our pilgrimage here, all our worldly pursuits, our honours, our riches, and pleasures will appear as a dream ; then will we wish we had been as careful for the interests of our immortal state, as for the vain transitory concerns of this world.

Make us a family fearing thee, O God, submitting ourselves to thy good pleasure, and putting our whole trust in thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Let thy blessing be with us to defend us in all dangers, and comfort us in all adversities. Assist and uphold us by thy free Spirit, O Lord ; increase our faith, our hope, our love ; make our souls temples of the Holy Ghost. May we continue thine for ever, and daily increase in all the Christian graces, until we come to thine everlasting kingdom in glory. O let not our resolutions to progress in the divine life pass away as the morning cloud, but give us grace to carry them out, and safety against our spiritual

adversaries. Subdue our evil inclinations, and confirm our repentance. Lead us by the right hand of thy righteousness ; defend us by the right arm of thy power, until thou hast brought us to the haven where we desire to be !

We would commend ourselves, O Lord, this night to thy merciful protection and care, and would commit our souls, bodies, and spirits to thy keeping, and may our God be ever our refuge. Do thou bless our friends, and all who are dear to us ; enrich them and us with the bounties of thy providence, and the gifts of thy grace. May they be adopted into thy family, become heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.

Bless our benefactors, O Lord, and may they receive out of thy fulness, grace for grace. Forgive our enemies, and may we be enabled, from the heart, to forgive them. Do thou bless our native land, in all its interests, sacred and civil, and all classes amongst us, from the highest to the lowest of the people. Sanctify the afflictions of those who are afflicted, with the consolations of thy grace, and prepare the dying for their great change. And may we so live now, as we shall wish we had done, when the period comes when we shall appear at the tribunal of Christ Jesus. We would entreat of thee, that thou wouldst let the widow and the fatherless share in thy tender compassion. Richly supply the wants of the poor.

May the year which we are now on the eve of entering, find us more diligent in our preparation for our heavenly state, and may we be more fervent in our prayers and exertions in thy cause, that they may be blessed with some measure of success by thee.



And, O heavenly Father, we place all our confidence in thee; and we would unite in blessing thee for the mercies which we have enjoyed during the year that is now closing, and for the loving-kindness with which thou hast crowned us.

Hear us, O Lord, and graciously answer our petitions, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Mediator and Redeemer, to whom, with thee, and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe glory, honour, and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

15.—FOR THE MORNING OF A NEW YEAR.

MOST glorious God! Thou art the beginning, and the end; all things are from thee, and for thee; thou art the Almighty, the same eternal and unchangeable One. We are thine, for thou hast made us, protected us, and taken special care of us. Thy wisdom, power, and goodness, displayed in the wonderful formation of our bodies, in giving us reasonable and immortal souls; and in all the mercies of our infancy, childhood, and riper years, demand admiring, grateful praise. We are governed by thy wise, holy, and sovereign counsel. We desire, O Lord, in the name of Him, through whom alone we ourselves, as well as our services can find acceptance with thee, to approach and worship at the footstool of thy throne.

On this the morning of a new year, we desire, O Lord, with hearts full of gratitude and praise, to recount the mercies, and the goodness, and the truth, which thou hast made to pass before us, ever since we had a being. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night teacheth

us knowledge concerning thy boundless goodness, unwearied beneficence, and never failing faithfulness. How liberally hast thou opened thy hand, and supplied our returning wants. How often hast thou preserved our feet from falling, and our eyes from tears ; and even when thou didst visit us with trouble, it was not that thou didst take pleasure therein, but that we might be profited thereby. How manifold and precious are the blessings with which our lot has been encompassed, and our life rendered agreeable ! And when we reflect on all the ways by which thou hast led us, we feel that we may well set up our stone of remembrance this day, and declare that hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

We acknowledge that not only in temporal, but especially in spiritual mercies, hast thou blessed us. Thou hast cast our lot in a land of gospel light and liberty. We bless thee, O Lord, for thy wonderful love to us in Christ Jesus, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Give us, we beseech thee, a due sense of these and of all thy mercies and blessings bestowed on us.

We confess, O God, that we are sinners, deserving thy wrath, from which we cannot be delivered except by an interest in Christ. May we have grace given us to repent, and to turn unto thee the Lord, that our souls may be saved. May we no longer be counted ungodly, but righteous, because of the non-imputation to us of our sins, and the imputation of the righteousness of Christ to us. Impress us, O God, with the conviction, that none are pardoned except in virtue of their relation to Christ by faith ; and that as his atoning blood washes away our sins, so his righteousness

justifies our persons. We confess, that we cannot be justified by any merit in our own works. May Christ be indeed precious to our souls. May he be all our salvation, and all our desire.

Blessed be thy name, O God, that thou hast not inflicted on us the judgments which we have merited; nor deprived us of the comforts we have forfeited. Thy favour and protection are the only sure rest and comfort of our souls in this evil world; and in Christ Jesus thou art the refuge and dwelling-place to which we may repair.

Seeing, O God, that we must soon bid adieu to all the things which are seen and temporal, may we live by that faith which is the substance and evidence of things not seen. The decay of every plant, and the fading of every flower, and the revolution of every season, and the changes made by death, all teach us that we are frail and mortal—rapidly passing down the stream of time, and drawing onward to the boundless ocean of eternity. We all know that we must die, and that whenever the summons is given, whether suddenly, or otherwise, we must obey it. And we know also that death must seal our everlasting destiny. When, therefore, we reflect on the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and the fading nature of all earthly enjoyments, it deeply concerns us, O God, to humble ourselves before thee, and to cast ourselves wholly on thy mercy in Christ. And when thus thy mercy pardons the transgressions committed by us, may thy grace take away all the iniquity that reigns in us. May we continually seek the renewing of the Holy Ghost, and look forward to heaven as the only place of perfect holiness and happiness. And we

know that if we wait upon thee in the appointed way, the tokens of thy love will, in due time, be vouchsafed ; we may then look forward to the hour of death with patient submission and joyful hope. May we choose the better portion, which shall not be taken from us ; bear daily the cross of Christ, and that we may die the death of the righteous.

We pray, O Lord, that the year on which we have entered may be marked by more abundant communications of thy grace and Holy Spirit to our souls, whereby we may be enabled to throw off the yoke of sin, and successfully resist the temptations of the devil. May our strength and vigour be exerted in our duty, cordially choosing and loving, and cheerfully obeying the Gospel. May we be indeed thy children, and bear thine image both in our hearts and in our lives. Faith, holiness, and obedience are required of us ; and our works will evidence, whether we have complied with our obligations. In doing the will of thee, our God, by reliance on thy grace and strength, may we cheerfully expect to be more than conquerors in every conflict, till death is swallowed up in victory. May we shrink from no hardship in the cause of Christ, but willingly endure his cross, obey his commandments, and be steadfast, immoveable, and always abound in his work, as knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We know not, O God, the things which shall befall us during the year which has begun. Thou hast in mercy drawn a curtain, which mortal eye can never penetrate, between us and the realities of the future. May every year which passes away remind us, that we are advancing onward in our journey to our everlasting home. May we

therefore pass the time of our sojourning here in thy fear. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

We commend ourselves and our family, O Lord, to thy Fatherly care and protection throughout the year on which we have entered. We know not what thou hast in reserve for us, and we pray that if any of us should feel anguish or temptations, or if we should suffer tribulation, may we still seek a hope in thee, the God of our salvation. May we remember that relief comes from thee alone. Let us not yield to impatience or despair, but still expect comfort after the darkest affliction. And if we should be exempted from such trials, let us bless thee, O Lord, while we feel and pray for our afflicted brethren.

Above all, we pray, O Lord, that this year may be distinguished by greater zeal in the cause of truth, and more united exertions in promoting the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

May our friends be protected by thy power, and enriched with thy grace. And grant, we pray thee, O Lord, that at whatever time it shall seem good to thee to remove them and us from this world, we may resign our souls into thy hand with joy, and not with sorrow.

Hear our prayers, O God, and accept of us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

# INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS,

TO BE USED BEFORE ENTERING ON FAMILY WORSHIP.



## 1.

HEAVENLY FATHER, lift up on us the light of thy countenance, and graciously accept the praise and prayers we would now offer unto thee in the name of Christ. Grant us thy Holy Spirit that he may teach us to read thy word intelligently; and to ask aright those blessings which we feel we need. Lord, make us to realize thy presence while we would attempt to worship thee. May we feel it good to draw near to God, to thank him for what he has done for us, and to praise him for what he has promised still to do, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## 2.

O THOU who art the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, solemnize our minds for engaging in thy worship. May thy Holy Spirit shed abroad his enlightening influences on our darkened understandings, whilst we attempt to read thy word, so that the glorious truths which it reveals may be more clearly comprehended by us. And may he also teach us to ask in faith those things which are agreeable to thy will; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## 3.

ALMIGHTY and ETERNAL BEING, who art worthy to receive the adorations of the hosts that bow before thy heavenly throne, and the praises of all thy creatures upon earth, bless us when we open thy word, and read its sacred page, and present before thee our humble petitions. May we come before thee with filial confidence and holy boldness, and find to our sweet experience that thou art ever found by the faithful and sincere worshipper. Hear us, and do us all the good we need, for the Beloved's sake. Amen.

## 4.

OUR FATHER who art in heaven, we pray that thou wouldst enable us, at this time, to worship thee in spirit and in truth; and grant that the expressions of our lips, and the meditations of our hearts, may find acceptance in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## 5.

O GOD, we pray that thou wouldst bless us, as we are now about to surround thy throne, in the character of suppliants. Without thy blessing life is no enjoyment, and earth has no soothing comfort, no real and pure delights. Bless to our souls the portion of thy word which is to be read. Sanctify us through thy truth,—thy word is truth. Pour down upon us we beseech thee the healthful influences of thy grace and Spirit, so that our prayers may be ordered aright before thee. We ask every mercy through Christ. Amen.

## 6.

O LORD, we come before thee at this time to solicit thy presence and blessing, while we would desire to worship thee at thy footstool. Bestow upon us, we earnestly beseech thee, the influences of thy Holy Spirit, so that he may teach us both how to pray, and what things to pray for. Lift up on us the light of thy countenance, and give us peace, for Christ's sake. Amen.

## 7.

O LORD GOD, we pray that thou wouldst frame our minds for engaging profitably in thy worship at this time. May we open thy word with fear, and read it with reverence. May we not only desire to learn its sacred truths and commands, but also to imbibe them, and exemplify them in our lives and practice. Lord teach us how to pray. Impart to us the spirit of supplication, and may we ask in faith nothing wavering. And as we draw near to thee in prayer, may we have a lively sense that we are addressing a reconciled Father in Christ Jesus. All we ask is for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THE END.



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